



Volume 26- June 2010

## WOULD I LIE TO YOU?

NEWS • EDITORIALS • SPORTS • MOVIES • RESTAURANTS • CARTOONS

“QUIET NUMBSKULLS, I’M BROADCASTING”

## 2010 BUSH FOUNDATION ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

The Bush Artist Fellowships are designed to strengthen the work of regional artists, to foster their artistic careers and to explore work that stimulates community dialogue. The \$48,000 fellowships are awarded to artists who exhibit strong vision, creative energy, commitment to excellence and community engagement. In addition, fellows receive assistance in developing an individualized communications plan, along with \$2,000 to implement the plan. Fellows will be announced on June 14<sup>th</sup>, but we have learned that Edina, MN artist, **MEGAN RYE** has been chosen to received a fellowship.



Megan Rye with her painting “Patrol”

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**WOULD I LIE TO YOU?**

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Fallujah to Abu Ghraib



Fallujah Morning



What We Found

**SOME OF MEGAN'S  
WORK THAT CAN BE  
SEEN AT  
MUSEUM, "LOUV'RE IT  
OR LEAVE IT"**



# HUMAN INTEREST

## THE SACRED GROUND OF FLIGHT 710 By Richard Chin – Pioneer Press 3/14/10



Fifty years ago, on St. Patrick's Day 1960, Northwest Orient Airlines Flight 710 took off from the Twin Cities, stopped at Chicago's Midway Airport and then took off again for its final destination, Miami. It didn't make it.

The plane, a Lockheed Electra L-188 turboprop, broke into pieces in the skies above southern Indiana, plunged straight to the ground and buried itself in a soybean field. The crash killed all 63 people aboard, including the Twin Cities-based crew of six and nine other people from Minnesota.

The crash sent shock waves through the aviation community and the traveling public. It was the second Lockheed Electra in less than six months to mysteriously fall apart in midair, killing everyone aboard. Investigators suspected everything from air turbulence to metal fatigue to a mad bomber. But eventually they figured out the fatal flaw. The vibrations created by the whirling propellers matched the fluttering frequency of the wings, causing catastrophic stresses.

Half a century later, the disaster is largely forgotten, except by aviation history buffs, a handful of aging relatives of the victims and the southern Indiana community where residents still regard the accident as their Sept. 11.

Most of the bodies were never recovered. They ended up buried in the crater with the plane's fuselage when it hit the ground.

At the time, local residents wrote poems about the event and raised money to erect a memorial. The soybean field was never planted again. For the last half-century, residents have tended it as a burial ground. This weekend, they'll hold an anniversary memorial for the plane full of strangers who fell out of the sky.

## Remembering Flight 710

**Fifty years ago, a Northwest Orient Airlines flight took off on St. Patrick's Day headed for Miami via Chicago. It crashed near Tell City, Ind.**



### HEARD IT IN THE NEWS

On March 17, 1960, Tom Teresi was looking forward to his older brother's spring break trip to Florida because that meant Tom, a 16-year-old Minneapolis high schooler, would get to drive his brother's 1957 Ford for the week.

Teresi remembers driving his brother, John, a 21-year-old electrical engineering student, to the University of Minnesota's Nicholson Hall, where he took a final exam before catching his flight to Miami.

Teresi went to his classes at Henry High School and then to his job as a Western Union messenger. When he got home at 6:30 that night, the television was on and the room was full of crying people.

"Every night after that was the same, since there was never a body to bury," he said.

Flying with John Teresi was a high school classmate, Mike Kuehnel, 21, who was also a student at the University of Minnesota.

Kuehnel's older brother, Ben, said he remembers learning about the crash from a newspaper story listing his brother as one of the victims. He said an FBI agent came later to interview

the family, apparently concerned that a passenger was carrying a bomb.

"The only thing we got back was his driver's license," Kuehnel said.

Martha Chalfen and her three children, ages 2, 6, and 7, were also on the flight. Chalfen's husband, Morris, was the producer of the Holiday on Ice skating show and a founder of the Minneapolis Lakers basketball team.

Isabel Holt, an Olympic figure skater for Canada, was a friend of the Chalfen family. Holt had moved to the Twin Cities and was skating for a competing show, the Ice Follies, along with her dog Duke, whom she trained to skate.

"The only dog in the world to ice skate," she said. She said Chalfen wanted her and Duke to skate for his show.

"His wife was at my home the night before she was killed," Holt said of Martha Chalfen, who was also a skater. After the crash, Morris Chalfen never went back to the family's Lake of the Isles home, Holt said. "He wouldn't go back to the house after she was killed. He didn't want to see it anymore."

Rita Herseth's parents boarded the plane in Chicago. Her father, Stanley Tranas, had a furniture store on Chicago's South Side and had won a Florida vacation from the Serta mattress company. Herseth's mother, Barbara, was dying of cancer. Herseth said her parents decided to take the trip as a final vacation together, although Barbara Tranas regretted leaving Rita and her two sisters.

"If they had the money, they would have taken us," Herseth said.

She learned of the crash on the evening news.

"I remember everybody just screaming. It was just horrible," said Herseth, who was 15 at the time. Soon after the accident, Northwest Orient Airlines brought the families to the crash site near the towns of Tell City and Cannelton, Ind., for a memorial service.

Teresi said his parents didn't want to fly, so Northwest paid for their train tickets.

Returning home, Teresi persuaded his parents to take a plane back. It was the first time he flew. "I wanted to fly in an airplane," he said.

Later, the family drove to Indiana and revisited the site.

Teresi remembers his father talking to the local medical examiner about how the disaster overwhelmed the community and how they dreaded digging into the crater to try to retrieve the bodies. "Of course, they had to," he said.

The only thing his family recovered from the flight was John's billfold, Teresi said. He said his brother was "a great student, a great athlete. I hated to be compared to him." "He was destined for good things," he said. Teresi's parents died in the 1990s. Over the years, "nobody talked about it." "Just too sad to discuss it," he said.

#### TO NEVER FORGET

At the time of the crash, residents in Perry County were desperate to help the passengers of Flight 710. But no one was left to save. Instead, the community decided not to forget. A year after the disaster, county residents led by the Cannelton Kiwanis Club and local newspaper editor Bob Cummings put up a granite memorial at the crash site.

The site, still surrounded by farmland, was turned into a one-acre park maintained by the county, which has a population of just under 20,000 people. "It's sacred ground now. You just can't plant it and grow crops over it," said Mark Laflin, a member of the Tell City Historical Society. The crash occurred just before 3:30 in the afternoon. School had just let out, and many who were students at the time remember seeing the plane fall from the sky.

"I remember playing outside in the snow. I saw this shiny object floating," said Laflin, who was 10 in 1960. "Basically what we saw was the wing."

Organizers of this weekend's commemoration in Perry County are holding ceremonies modeled after the memorial services held at the site 50 years ago. Buddhist, Catholic, Jewish and Protestant elements were planned for the services, representing the different faiths of the people on the plane. Local museums are showing documentaries about the event. They've tried to contact relatives of victims to invite them to attend.

Tom Teresi is going. "It'll be good to go back," he said. "Just to feel the kindness that comes from those folks." So will Rita Herseht, who now lives in Missoula, Mont. "Remember there's no gravesite for me. That's the gravesite, and I need to be there," she said.

"There's such a great sense of this community watching over these victims," said Rebecca Fenn, executive director of the county United Way and a Tell City Kiwanis member. "I think because so many lives were lost and so many people experienced the loss for the families that weren't here. All those people died alone, away from families."

"If you take, like the World Trade Center, I guess in a small way, that was something like this for us," said Pat Crawford, a past president of the Tell City Historical Society. At the original dedication of the memorial, local resident Leona Adams wrote a poem memorializing the 63 people killed.

This year, fifth-graders from Cannelton Elementary School wrote another poem.

This is how it ends:

"Here we have a memorial to remember  
Each man, woman and child — don't fret,  
Now they all dwell in beautiful Heaven  
And we will never, ever forget!"

Richard Chin can be reached at 651-228-5560.





I remember visiting my parents and Tracy's gravesites for Mother's Day at the United Hebrew Cemetery at 71<sup>st</sup> and Penn Avenue, I again passed by the Chalfen Family gravesite of Martha-the mother, Debra, Linda and Richard (ages 2, 6, 7). The Tell City, Indiana tragedy of this mother dying with her children on board continues to torture my vivid imagination with flashes of the children screaming for their mom as the plane plunges to it gravesite. (the Chalfen maid, Anna Wold also perished on the same flight).

Morris Chalfen somehow persevered through this tragedy and later remarried Beverly. He passed away in 1979.

The home JoAnn and I live in currently was once Beverly Chalfen's home.





## FOSSIL FINGER POINTS TO NEW HUMAN SPECIES

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DNA analysis reveals lost relative from 40,000 years ago.

Rex Dalton Nature.com-March 4, 2010

In the summer of 2008, Russian researchers dug up a sliver of human finger bone from an isolated Siberian cave. The team stored it away for later testing, assuming that the nondescript fragment came from one of the Neanderthals who left a welter of tools in the cave between 30,000 and 48,000 years ago.

Nothing about the bone shard seemed extraordinary.



A finger bone found in Denisova Cave in Siberia could add a branch to the human family tree

Its genetic material told another story. When German researchers extracted and sequenced DNA from the fossil, they found that it did not match that of Neanderthals — or of modern humans, which were also living nearby at the time. The genetic data, published online in *Nature*<sup>1</sup>, reveal that the bone may belong to a previously unrecognized, extinct human species that migrated out of Africa long before our known relatives.

"This really surpassed our hopes," says Svante Pääbo, senior author on the international study and director of evolutionary genetics at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. "I almost could not believe it. It sounded too fantastic to be true."

Researchers not involved in the work applauded the findings but cautioned against drawing too many conclusions from a single study. "With the data in hand, you cannot claim the discovery of a new species," says Eske Willerslev, an evolutionary biologist and director of the Centre for GeoGenetics at the University of Copenhagen.

"I almost could not believe it. It sounded too fantastic to be true."

If further work does support the initial conclusions, the discovery would mark the first time that an extinct human relative had been identified by DNA analysis. It would also suggest that ice-age humans were more diverse than had been thought. Since the late nineteenth century, researchers have known that two species of *Homo* — Neanderthals and modern humans — coexisted during the later part of the last ice age. In 2003, a third species, *Homo floresiensis*, was discovered on the island of Flores in Indonesia, but there has been no sign of this tiny 'hobbit' elsewhere. The relative identified in Siberia, however, raises the possibility that several *Homo* species ranged across Europe and Asia, overlapping with the direct ancestors of modern people.

The Siberian site in the Altai Mountains, called Denisova Cave, was already known as a rich source of Mousterian and Levallois artefacts, two styles of tool attributed to Neanderthals. For more than a decade, Russian scientists from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology in Novosibirsk have been searching for the toolmakers' bones. They discovered several bone specimens, handling each potentially important new find with gloves to prevent contamination with modern human DNA. The bones' own DNA could then be extracted and analysed.

When the finger bone was discovered, "we didn't pay special attention to it", says archaeologist Michael Shunkov of the Novosibirsk institute. But Pääbo had established a relationship with the Russian team years before to gather material for genetic testing from ice-age humans. After obtaining the bone, the German team extracted the bone's genetic material and sequenced its mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) — the most abundant kind of DNA and the best bet for getting an undegraded sequence from ancient tissue.

After re-reading the mtDNA sequences an average of 156 times each to ensure accuracy, the researchers compared them with the mtDNA genomes of 54 modern humans, a 30,000-year-old modern human found in Russia and six Neanderthals. The Denisova Cave DNA fell into a class of its own. Although a Neanderthal mtDNA genome differs from that of *Homo sapiens* at 202 nucleotide positions on average, the Denisova Cave sample differed at an average of 385 positions.

The differences imply that the Siberian ancestor branched off from the human family tree a million years ago, well before the split between modern humans and Neanderthals. If so, the proposed species must have left Africa in a previously unknown migration, between that of *Homo erectus* 1.9 million years ago and that of the Neanderthal ancestor *Homo heidelbergensis*, 300,000 to 500,000 years ago.

Study author Johannes Krause, also at the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig, says that the researchers are now generating nuclear DNA sequences from the bone with the hope of sequencing its entire genome. If they are successful, it would be the oldest human genome sequenced, eclipsing that of the 4,000-year-old Eskimo from Greenland that Willerslev and his colleagues reported last month<sup>2</sup>.

A complete genome might also enable the researchers to give the proposed new species a formal name. They had originally planned to do so on the basis of the mtDNA genome. But they opted to wait until more bones are found — or until the DNA gives a clearer picture of its relationship to modern humans and Neanderthals.

Willerslev emphasizes that, on its own, the mtDNA evidence does not verify that the Siberian find represents a new species because mtDNA is inherited only from the mother. It is possible that some modern humans or Neanderthals living in Siberia 40,000 years ago had unusual mtDNA, which may have come from earlier interbreeding among *H. erectus*, Neanderthals, archaic modern humans or another, unknown species of *Homo*. Only probes of the nuclear DNA will properly define the position of the Siberian relative in the human family tree.

Anthropologists also want to see more-refined dating of the sediments and a better description of the finger bone itself. "I haven't seen a picture of the bone, and would like to," says Owen Lovejoy, an anthropologist at Kent State University in Ohio. "The stratigraphic age for the bone is 30,000 to 48,000 years old, but the mtDNA age could be as old as *H. erectus*," says Lovejoy. "That doesn't tell us much about human evolution unless it truly represents a surviving ancient species."



**new species discovered in the Fink backyard**

The cave has yielded few clues about the culture of the Siberian hominin, although a fragment of a polished bracelet with a drilled hole was found earlier in the same layer that yielded the bone<sup>3</sup>.

Pääbo suspects that other human ancestors — and new mysteries — may emerge as geneticists grind up more ancient bones for sequencing. "It is fascinating that molecular studies make a contribution in palaeontology where there is little or no morphology preserved," he says. "It is clear we stand just in the beginning of many fascinating developments."



# Friend Request

By DANIELA LAMAS- March 11, 2010-New York Times Magazine

**Last winter**, in the middle of my intern year, I became Facebook friends with a young man who was dying in the intensive-care unit. An investment banker in his mid-20s, he thought he was healthy until a fluttering in his chest and swollen ankles took him to a doctor. Now he was in the I.C.U. with a rare cardiac condition and the vague possibility of a transplant.



And his laptop. That's the first thing I noticed the morning a group of us stood outside his room on rounds. He was shocked by his internal defibrillator three times the night before — died, that is, three times before being brought back with jolts of electricity. And this young man with a steroid-swollen face was surfing the Internet.

In medical school, when we cut open a cadaver and lifted the heart from its silent cage, it was beautiful and unreal. With this patient, it was clear to me that there would be no poetry. He was dying, and it would be ugly, and I knew I couldn't help him. He terrified me.

Eventually, I was sent in to pull a central line out of his neck. "Hey," I said. I told him I was just going to cut out the stitches and then pull out the line — basically a large IV for giving drugs — from the vein deep inside. It would bleed, and I'd apply pressure for a while. When I pulled, I told him, I wanted him to hum.

"Hum?" he said. He sounded like a regular guy, and I thought suddenly of fantasy football and beer.

"Uh . . . well, we don't want an air bubble," I said while I cut the sutures. "Humming increases the pressure in your chest and keeps air from wanting to go in."

I braced one hand against his shoulder and yanked the line out from his neck. "HMMMMMM. . . ." His throat cracked, and I sensed he had a bad singing voice. I jammed the gauze down, but still blood dripped onto his gown, spreading into the fabric. I leaned my weight into his neck and felt him flinch. He turned his head toward the window, toward the snow.

"It's like Siberia out there," I said. It turned out he actually went there a few years before with friends. They took the Trans-Siberian Railway. "That is so cool," I said.

"Are you on Facebook?" he asked me. "I'll friend you, and you can see the pictures."

The last time a guy asked me that, I was in a crowded bar, giggling with the promise of meeting someone new. Now I was in the I.C.U. With every breath he took, I was scared the monitors would go off and he would die and I wouldn't know what to do.

That night, I went online and found the friend request. I clicked on his name. There he was, I thought, though not with swollen cheeks and belly, wasted arms and legs. This boy on Facebook was, well, hot. He was “single,” and he liked Radiohead and Tom Clancy. He'd been sending upbeat status updates from the I.C.U.; to read them, you'd never know he was so sick, but to me they were missives from a dying man.

My rotation in the I.C.U. ended soon after this, and I didn't see him. But when I couldn't sleep, sometimes I found myself opening his Facebook page, reading those status reports, glancing at his photos. Meanwhile, I learned that his kidneys were no longer working, that he kept spiking fevers, that he hadn't received a transplant.

And then a few weeks later, I received a message from him in my online in-box: “Can I stop humming yet?”

I wish I could say that I responded, but instead I hesitated, and then signed off. I still don't know why. I didn't think there was an ethical principle about following a patient on Facebook, and I didn't worry that he'd see a picture of me in a bikini on my page.

Maybe it was just that it had been weeks since that day I held pressure to his wound while he hummed, and I just couldn't believe he remembered.

After that, I wanted to go in and see how he was doing, but I didn't. I also stopped looking at his Facebook page, worried that he would somehow sense my online footprints. Months passed. One evening, I signed on to find his page filled with messages of condolence. They stretched for pages, and I read each one. Later, I signed on to our medical-records system and followed the notes that led — inevitably now — to his death. At the very end, I learned, his family said, *enough*.

Since then in my job, I've had to learn to look at death, in all its horrible manifestations, and not take pause. But I still find myself wishing for another chance to respond to that casual online message. To say: “Hey, what's up? I'm sorry it took me so long to get back to you. You're O.K. to stop humming now.”

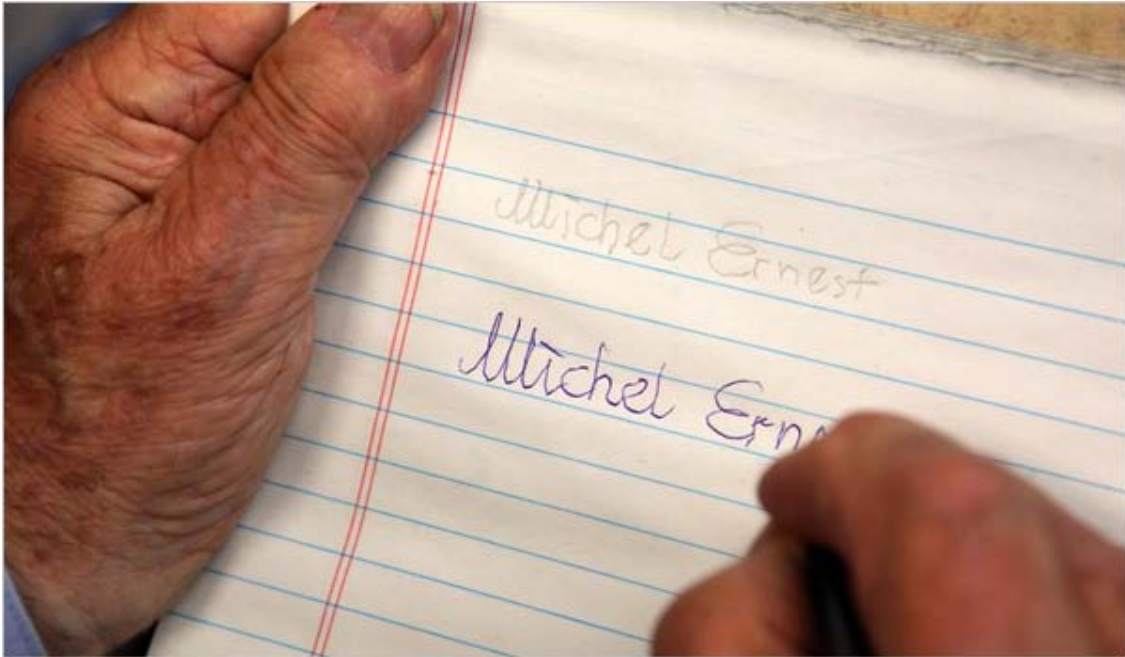
Daniela Lamas is a medical resident at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia hospital.



## THE URGENCY OF BEARING WITNESS By Paul Vitello-New York Times- April 9, 2010

He has been telling the story for more than 60 years: expelled from school at 13 for being Jewish; arrested at 16; sentenced to labor in the service of Nazi Germany until an SS guard's blow landed him, at 20, on the doorstep of death — an infirmary at Auschwitz.

Good handwriting saved his life



Ernest W. Michel's calligraphy skills helped save him from the gas chamber when he volunteered for a job requiring good penmanship. He ended up inscribing the death certificates of fellow inmates at Auschwitz.

In 1943, convinced he was headed to the gas chambers, Ernest W. Michel was rescued by a fluke of fate and a German punctiliousness for record-keeping. Despite the peril of raising one's hand in a concentration camp, Mr. Michel answered the call when someone asked for a volunteer with proper penmanship. He had studied calligraphy after being kicked out of school, as it happened. His father had insisted that he learn a skill.

The job he acquired was inscribing death certificates for his fellow inmates.

"No matter how they had died, I was to write 'heart attack' or 'bodily weakness' for the cause of death," he said. "You could not say 'gas chamber.' I had to say only one of those two things." The choice was left to him.

Mr. Michel, a Manhattan resident who has told his story of survival all over the world as an official of UJA-Federation of New York, will recount it again on Sunday as the featured speaker at a Holocaust Memorial Day event in Clifton, N.J., one of thousands of observances scheduled across the country.



But when he stands on the podium as a spokesman for the act of remembering, Mr. Michel, 86, will have to call once more on his penmanship — this time for help remembering. In his careful hand, he has fashioned a set of flash cards.



**Mr. Michel visited Auschwitz when he turned 60.**

"My memory isn't so good anymore, so I need my 'Stichworte' cards to remind myself of episodes I don't want to forget," said the German-born Mr. Michel, summoning a phrase that translates roughly as "cue words."

"I can remember exact details from the camps — what people said, where I was standing when I saw certain things," he said. "But I can't remember what happened yesterday."

As their cohort ages and dies off, some long-silent Holocaust survivors have

overcome their reticence, heeding the injunction of Elie Wiesel, a Nobel laureate and Auschwitz survivor, to pass down the authority of their testimony to the next generation.

"I believe fervently that to listen to a witness is to become a witness," Mr. Wiesel said in a recent interview. Mr. Michel (pronounced Mish-ELL), a longtime friend of Mr. Wiesel's, has never been reticent; but his sense of urgency to bear witness has only increased as his short-term memory has diminished. "There are so few of us left," Mr. Michel said. "I feel it is my duty."

So he brings his cue cards. One says, "Sept. 1, 1939," to remind him of the day the war began; he was arrested the next day at his home in Mannheim, Germany, never to see his parents again. (A younger sister, Lotte, survived.)

Another card says, "Berga," for the last camp in which he was confined after being evacuated from Auschwitz ahead of the Allied invasion. One says, "Calligraphy." It is all in his 1993 autobiography, "Promises to Keep," which he refers to whenever he is at a loss for an answer to a question. "It's in the book," he says.

At Auschwitz, Mr. Michel's handwriting earned him a promotion of sorts. He became an orderly in the infirmary, where one of his tasks was filling out transport forms for those patients culled from the wards each day by Nazi doctors "to be sent up the chimneys," he said.

By his own description, Mr. Michel is a cheerful man. The things he saw, and the jobs he performed, are part of an irreducible record that he believes is his duty to recount. But he has no regrets about having done what he could to survive.

"If I didn't do it, somebody else would have done it," he said. "I never had a bad dream about Auschwitz."

Between 1939 and 1945, when he escaped during a last-ditch forced march between camps, Mr. Michel said, he endured famine, beatings and the constant horror of seeing fellow inmates executed before his eyes or dispatched to the gas chambers.

Yet an innate optimism seemed to propel him forward, he said. After his escape, he found his way to the American side, became a translator, then a reporter for the American occupation government at the Nuremberg war crimes trials. He went to work in New York as a fund-raiser for the United Jewish Appeal, and eventually became its executive vice president. He married, had three children and learned to love tennis.



The only possession that Mr. Michel kept from his years in the camps was the leather belt he wore through those lean years — “a belt,” he said, “with a lot more holes in it than I have today, let me tell you.” It serves as a kind of symbol for the adaptability that made survival possible.

“I have always loved life,” he said. “That is what saved me.”

Kathrin Flor, a spokeswoman for the International Tracing Service, an International Red Cross agency that has collected much of the documentary record of the Nazi concentration camps, said the papers written in Mr. Michel’s hand would most likely be among the millions stored today at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and State Museum, on the site of the death camp in Poland.

“The death certificates and documents he describes would have been made for inmates who were working for a period of time before their death,” she said. “Families who were gassed immediately upon arrival — there are no death certificates for them.”

In retirement, Mr. Michel maintains a rigorous speaking schedule. For several years, he led a campaign to stop the Mormon Church’s practice of posthumously baptizing Jews who had died in the Holocaust, in the belief that they might embrace the faith in the afterlife. He gave that up when it became clear to him that they would not desist. “Always look to the future,” he said.

In that spirit, Mr. Michel recently made plans for a reunion: The man in the camp who had asked for a volunteer with good handwriting, a German Communist prisoner-worker named Stefan Heyman, died of natural causes some years ago. But he had a son who now lives in Houston.

“I have been in touch with the son,” Mr. Michel said. “We are going to have a get-together. It will be wonderful.”

He cannot remember the last time he used his calligraphy. “Sometimes, for invitations,” he said, trying to recall. They might, he said, have been invitations to his children’s weddings.

## **ANIMAL CONSERVATION**



## **SPOTLIGHT CHARITY**

### **INDIA PROJECT FOR ANIMALS AND NATURE**

I became involved with IPAN about 8 years ago. I was introduced to this organization thru local residents Dr. Michael Fox and his wife Deanna Krantz. My initial involvement consisted of sponsoring a well project to bring clean drinking water for animals in a remote region of India. I later helped to enlarge a living space for a Veterinarian they hoped to employ. For the last 7 years I have sponsored the salary of the Veterinarian. I recently received the following pictures and letter from the Doctor.





**DR.M.SUGUMARAN,SENIOR VETERINARIAN, IPAN- GCC Inc,**

15/284,KONGAN VAYAL,MARTHOMA NAGAR POST,  
GUDALUR,THE NILGIRIS,SOUTH INDIA-643211.  
PHONE NO-04262 263761

To

Dr.Gary Fink,  
2728 West Lake of the Isles Parkway,  
Minneapolis,  
Minnesota 55416  
U.S.A.

Respected sir,

First of all My family and I are thanking you for the support through all the years by means of salary to me to work as senior veterinarian for India Project for animals and Nature (IPAN-GCC Inc) founded by Deanna L Krantz and Dr. Michael W Fox., close to Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in South India.

Inspired to advance the cause of animal welfare and bring veterinary care to the animals owned by poor people as well as community dogs and donkeys and also wild animals in need of care, I left my secured position as government veterinarian and joined Deanna and Dr. Michael to perform this meaningful work.

Over the past few years over 10000 domestic and a large number of wild animals have benefited from our veterinary care.

The animals in our project area once neglected and ill-treated by the locals ,are now receiving good care and compassion through our repeated outreach work and extension education to the locals especially the youth. We are reaching the remote tribal hamlets which continue to be neglected by other agencies.

The young animals are being vaccinated and wormed periodically and are fed with optimum food of decent quality through our veterinary care and education.

As our area of operation is mostly on the border of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Bandipur Tiger Reserve the wild animals are protected from contagious disease by our protecting the domestic animals with foot and mouth disease, Rabies etc .

The Animal Birth control Program (ABC) that was unheard of before 1995 in our District is well known by every one at present. Over 3000 dogs and 100s of cats have been sterilized by surgery by me to control the population of the community dogs and cats,thereby reducing new generation of suffering animals. As the population control


work is a process we are continuing the work ever since we initiated the same. The credit must go to none other than Deanna and Dr.Michael.

It is needless to explain the amount of benefit the animals and I are receiving because that it is not measurable. We are grateful to you for your continued help in the future. Though I loose a lot of benefits those are enjoyed by Government Veterinarians; my family, friends, our assistants and I are enjoying our work by the way of treating suffering animals with help of your financial support and also with the financial and technical support by my mentors Deanna and Dr. Michael.

Please continue your support!

Thanking you sir,

Yours Sincerely,

  
Dr.M.Sugumaran  
Senior Veterinarian.

Gudalur-April 5<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Dr.M SUGUMARAN : Senior Vet. Treating a Injured Spotted DEER With forest Official**







## India Project (IPAN)

### for Animals and Nature

## About IPAN

**India's animals, the sacred and the suffering, the wild and the domesticated, are in dire need of help.** Help from within this continent of vastly differing cultures and bioregions is extremely limited in part because of the ever pressing demands and problems of a soon-to-be one billion human population.

There is sufficient feed for only **60 percent of India's 200 million cattle**. Veterinary services in many regions lack basic infrastructure and cannot even provide safe and effective vaccines for the half-billion domestic animals in India's 600,000 villages and crowded cities and slums.

India Project for Animals and Nature (IPAN), established in 1996 by **Project Director Deanna Krantz** of New York-based Global Communications for Conservation, Inc., is based in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in the heart of the 260-square mile Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary.

IPAN has been provided a **building and land** by the elected local government body, the Panchayat Union Council, in the village of Masinagudi, which IPAN has made into a **community veterinary surgery and treatment center** for all animals, and serves as the center for village dog and cat spay/neuter program.

On the main Ooty road, a small house in the village of **Mavanhalla** serves as the IPAN office, medicine and equipment storehouse, emergency clinic, and additional staff quarters.

Located in this relatively wild and remote region in the Nilgiri or Blue Mountains, which is one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, IPAN is a ray of hope for thousands of animals, especially since **most of their owners cannot afford or secure adequate veterinary services**.

In a region with one of the largest domestic animal populations in India, IPAN's program to treat and prevent diseases in these animals directly protects wildlife in the surrounding jungle from the devastating consequences of **contagious diseases**, such as rabies, foot and mouth disease, distemper, etc.



This malnourished village cow is eating newspaper from a garbage pile. Scenes like this are common in India.



Street dogs are shown searching for food in the garbage-strewn street.



IPAN veterinarian demonstrating spay procedure at community animal hospital.

In collaboration with appropriate authorities and organizations, **future projects** will focus on the notorious cattle drive to slaughterhouses in the neighboring state of Kerala; the cattle overpopulation problem with resultant habitat destruction; and wildlife poaching, exploitation and extinction.

IPAN, in this unique locale, is **ideally positioned** to help reduce and prevent animal suffering, protect and conserve wildlife and the fragile environment, and promote humane and conservation ethics. [Donations](#) are always needed and welcome to enable IPAN to continue to purchase vaccines, medicines, surgical supplies, and field equipment, to cover travel costs, provisions for volunteers, salaries for local staff, and operational costs.

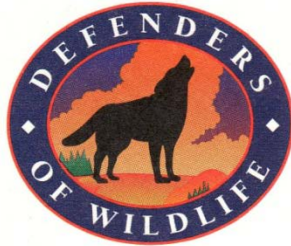


Treating village animals from our jeep always draws a crowd of spectators.





## INTRODUCING DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE



### DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Defenders of Wildlife is a national, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities.





## DEFENDERS IN 2009

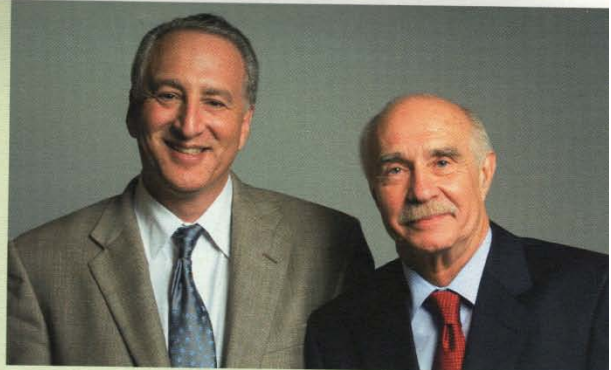
On Inauguration Day 2009, the world truly changed. For Defenders of Wildlife, the swearing in of President Barack Obama shifted both the realm of possibilities and our strategic outlook. For eight years we'd fought off near-constant attacks on the environment. With our new president and a more favorable Congress, we could once again focus on achieving positive outcomes for wildlife.

This year Defenders forged ahead on our work addressing the chief threat to wildlife conservation—climate change. While we advocate for strong controls on greenhouse gas emissions, we must also safeguard wildlife and habitats already being affected by climate changes. Our advocacy has already achieved high-level recognition: The National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center that Defenders helped create in 2008 will inform and guide federal agencies responding to climate change. Additionally, we have successfully ensured that all major global warming bills to date establish dedicated funding to assist federal, state and tribal agencies to implement a national strategy on wildlife survival that the new administration is developing.

Our efforts to strengthen protections for our public lands also progressed. We are promoting America's Wildlife Heritage Act, a bill requiring that national forests, grasslands and other public lands be managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to provide sustainable wildlife populations. Also this year we successfully encouraged badly needed funding increases for the national wildlife refuge system and other public lands as well as an unprecedented boost in funding to help wildlife survive in a warming world.

Our work for imperiled species has seen many gains but also some setbacks, as the new administration works out its priorities. Many of the court and administrative challenges we had brought against the Bush administration are being resolved as the Obama administration has moved to settle with us rather than defend the previous administration's mistakes. This has meant a long-awaited designation of 25 million acres of critical habitat for the Canada lynx, and a re-evaluation of the need for federal protections for the wolverine and critical habitat for the woodland caribou. Our request for increased protection for the polar bear under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species was supported by the Obama administration as well.

We also achieved victories in the courts for jaguars, flat-tailed horned lizards and Mexican gray wolves. Our court challenge of damaging Bush-era changes to national forest policy was also successful. The new administration has promised to rewrite forest planning rules, and we will



Victor Sher and Rodger Schlickeisen  
© SCOTT ROBINSON

work to ensure that protections for wildlife are reinstated and enhanced. And in Congress our bill to curb the aerial shooting of wolves and bears, the Protect America's Wildlife (PAW) Act, was introduced in the Senate for the first time.

While there have been many positive changes in 2009, some surprising decisions from the Obama administration show we still have work to do. Shortly after taking over the Interior Department, Secretary Ken Salazar dismayed conservationists by unexpectedly approving the Bush administration's plan to remove federal protections for gray wolves in the northern Rockies. Idaho and Montana quickly authorized widespread wolf hunts, and we immediately sued Secretary Salazar to restore federal protection. We are guardedly optimistic that the court will rule in our favor, but in the meantime we are working vigorously to persuade the administration to voluntarily correct its error and restore protection to northern Rockies wolves.

We are also encouraging the Obama administration to re-evaluate policy requiring the building of a U.S.-Mexico border wall, which is damaging sensitive ecosystems and crucial wildlife migration corridors. And we are mounting a vigorous campaign directed at the administration and Congress stressing the need to protect wildlife while the government promotes renewable energy development.

In 2009, we also faced the challenge of a president and Congress necessarily focused on the recession, war, healthcare and financial reform. We are grateful to our donors, who found ways to continue their support for wildlife and made our accomplishments possible in a challenging year. With your continued help, we expect that our outstanding staff will be able to win even more important battles in the year ahead.

Handwritten signature of Victor Sher in blue ink.

Victor Sher  
Chair, Board of Directors

Handwritten signature of Rodger Schlickeisen in blue ink.

Rodger Schlickeisen  
President and Chief Executive Officer



# ABOUT DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Since 1947 Defenders of Wildlife has been a leading force in the protection of wild creatures. We began with a single staff person focusing on safeguarding coyotes and other predators.

Today Defenders employs more than 150 people throughout North America, working to conserve native plants and animals, and developing innovative, science-based solutions to the many challenges facing wildlife and habitats today.

## **We work to protect and restore imperiled North American animals and plants.**

More than a decade ago, Defenders led the way for the return of the gray wolf to the northern Rockies, and we have watched as the presence of this top predator has helped heal broken ecosystems. We have worked with ranchers and local communities to ease the return of the wolf and other key predators to the landscape. And we have helped restore species like bison and prairie dogs to their essential roles on wild lands.

## **We work to safeguard wildlife and habitat in the face of global warming.**

Wild species face a threat today that was unfathomable when Defenders opened its doors more than six decades ago. From sea-level rise to the spread of disease, our changing climate has the power to impact every species on Earth. We work with the best scientific minds to forge policy at the federal, regional and local levels to help wildlife survive the coming changes.

## **We work to protect native plants, animals and natural areas on federal lands.**

Our national wildlife refuges, national forests and other public lands offer a foundation for the long-term conservation of native plants and animals, but only if they are managed well. From strengthening protection for our national wildlife refuges, to advocating for wildlife conservation on national forests and other public lands, we strive to ensure that the health of wildlife is integral to our public lands policy.

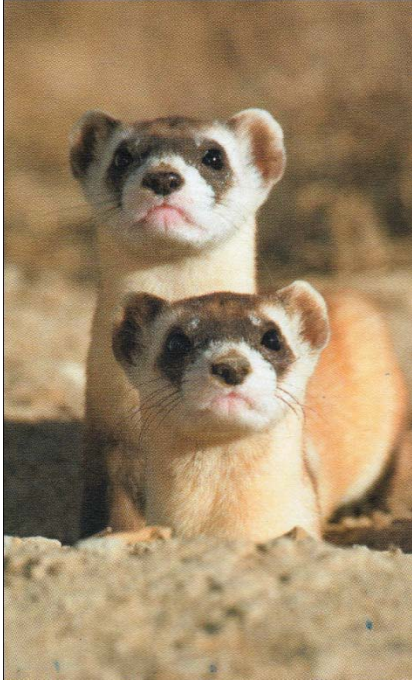
## **We work to promote an interconnected network of private and public lands for wildlife.**

Wild species must be able to move, especially as the climate changes. Defenders strives to increase connectivity between public and private conservation lands, and to decrease fragmentation of the land by roads and other infrastructure. We are also working to connect and advise private landowners and conservation leaders around the country to maximize the impact of their conservation work.

## **We work to reduce the causes of international wildlife loss.**

From the global amphibian crisis to the protection of sea turtles, Defenders has worked to protect wildlife around the world from the pressures of human demands and development, particularly those that originate in the United States. We have advocated for species internationally, working with governments around the world to advance the cause of wildlife made vulnerable by international commerce.





## Polar bears

Global warming threatens to claim the magnificent polar bear as one of its early victims. Defenders has worked to secure critical habitat for the bear, and to gain increased international protections through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Our lawyers are also fighting both to sustain the listing of the polar bear as a threatened species against challenges by the state of Alaska and industry, and to reverse the Bush administration's decision to provide only limited protection for the bear under the Endangered Species Act.



## TRYING TO SAVE WILD TIGERS BY REHABILITATING THEM

By Normitsu OnishiB-New York Times- April 21, 2010

*ALIMBING, Indonesia — The two wild Sumatran tigers, held in large, adjoining cages here, had killed at least eight people between them.*



They growled ferociously, lunged at a man outside, ran in circles inside the cages and slammed against the walls, their eyes radiating a fierceness absent in zoo tigers. But if all goes well, one of them eventually will be reintroduced into the wild.

In the only one of two such experiments in the world, tiger experts here have begun rehabilitating and releasing tigers that have attacked humans and livestock elsewhere on [Indonesia](#)'s island of Sumatra. As a growing human population and economic development keep squeezing tigers out of their remaining habitats, clashes are increasing with deadly frequency. Last year, tigers killed at least nine people in Sumatra, mostly illegal loggers pushing ever deeper into previously untouched forest.

In the past 20 months, conservationists have successfully returned four Sumatran tigers to the wild here, in what some experts describe as a promising strategy to help save the world's population of wild tigers — now below 3,000, or less than 3 percent of their numbers a century ago. The Sumatran tiger, with fewer than 400 left, is considered one of the most critically endangered of the world's six surviving tiger subspecies.

The tigers' release has drawn criticism, not least from local villagers who complain that they have lost goats and chickens to the predators, and now fear venturing outside at night. Some conservation groups, including the World Wildlife Fund, have hesitated to get involved with the program, which is financed by Tomy Winata, an Indonesian tycoon who parlayed close ties to the military into building an empire in real estate, banking, mining and other industries.

Mr. Winata, 51, runs his "tiger rescue center" out of the [Tambling Nature Wildlife Conservation](#), a 111,000-acre park that he acquired in the remote, southernmost tip of a peninsula sticking out of southwestern Sumatra.

"I give my life to this place," he said. "A lot of people say I'm blah, blah, blah. But who can come here and do better than I have?"

John Seidensticker, a tiger expert and the head of the [Conservation Ecology Center](#) at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Washington, said that until recently so-called conflict tigers were captured and simply put in zoos in Indonesia, "so much so that they filled up."



Mr. Seidensticker, who visited the center here last year, said that it was too soon to tell how the released tigers will fare in the long run but that Mr. Winata's efforts had impressed him.

"He's been a pioneer in this effort," Mr. Seidensticker said in a telephone interview. "Most people are a little bit afraid to take that next step with the problem animal and turn it loose."



In the only other program of this kind, the [Wildlife Conservation Society](#) has released and monitored five Amur tigers in the Russian Far East in the past decade. Results have been mixed: two remained near human settlements and were eventually poached; one returned to the wild but was also poached; a fourth slipped its collar after 10 months; a fifth, released in January, is now being monitored.

In Balimbing, workers try to recondition the tigers, mostly through isolation from people, so they grow to fear human beings again. Tigers instinctively stay away from people, but conflict tigers have lost that fear to varying degrees, said Tony Sumampau, who is spearheading the rehabilitation program here.

"Once tigers kill human beings," Mr. Sumampau said, "they realize that we're nothing."

In July 2008, the center released its first two tigers — males that villagers believed had killed people — after collaring them with GPS tracking devices. According to the signals, one has established a territory inside the conservation area to the north while the other has moved farther north to the adjoining Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Mr. Sumampau said. Two more, freed a few months ago, remain closer to the tiger center.

But center officials were proceeding cautiously with the two caged tigers because they were known to have killed people. A male, at least 10 years old, is too weak to survive back in the wild. But officials hoped to release a female named Salma, who, they believe, killed six villagers suspected of taking her cubs.

About 30 local tigers are also believed to inhabit this remote area. With roads impassable during the rainy season, the only way to reach Balimbing recently was by traveling four hours aboard a small fishing boat. Mr. Winata, who usually flies here in one of his helicopters or planes, said he employed 80 permanent workers as part of an annual \$1.5 million budget. He said he became interested in wildlife after he started working at the age of 15, on the rural islands of Borneo and Papua, for a company that built military housing.

Now, as the head of the Artha Graha conglomerate, Mr. Winata owns a good chunk of central Jakarta. And yet he pronounced himself bored with his business.

"Only stupid people can't do real estate," he said, claiming that his only passion was the center, which he visits once a month.

Mr. Winata often meets with leaders from the small village. One of them, Khusairi Raja, said that in addition to jobs, Mr. Winata had provided the village with free health care and schooling. But Mr. Winata had also begun enforcing environmental laws that had hurt the villagers' farming and fishing activities, he said. Neni Sarmaya, 22, said she was now afraid to go into the forest alone because of the tigers. "We haven't benefited at all from the release of the tigers," she said.

Sujadi, 53, who uses only one name, like many Indonesians, grumbled that he was given \$17, instead of the market value of \$28, for a goat lost to a tiger.

Mr. Sumampau said that GPS signals indicated that a freed tiger had attacked livestock shortly after its release in July 2008 but that subsequent claims had been disproved. Indeed, because of all the false claims, Mr. Winata said he no longer handed out compensation for lost livestock.

"They just want to make money," Mr. Winata said of villagers. "Many of them now have mobile phones with cameras. If they take a photo of one of the tigers eating a chicken or goat, show it to me. I'll pay them \$1,000."





## TO SAVE A SNOW LEOPARD: A SPECIAL AFGHANISTAN MISSION

By Tim McGirk –TIME Magazine-April 5<sup>th</sup> 2010



In a valley high in the Wakhan Mountains of Afghanistan, a hunter several weeks ago waded through snowdrifts to check his traps and found that he had snared one of the rarest creatures alive: a snow leopard.

If a naturalist had seen the leopard, he or she would have focused on its

snowy fur with black, half-moon markings and its white goatee. A naturalist would have known that it is a solitary, elusive creature, a night hunter that roams the icy Central Asian peaks far above human villages. A naturalist would have known that there are perhaps less than a thousand of them left on the planet. But the hunter who snared the snow leopard saw only a \$50,000 price tag. That was the fee supposedly offered by a wealthy Pakistani businessman to any hunter in the Wakhan who could deliver a snow leopard — alive. (See a TIME photoessay on the rare and endangered snow leopard in Afghanistan.)

The leopard was snarling and furious at being caught, with its hind leg gashed by a wire snare. But otherwise, it was in good shape. With the help of a few friends, the hunter tied the leopard's legs and muzzle, threw it in the back of a truck, and headed out of the Wakhan Valley to Feyzabad, a three-day journey of hairpin curves along terrifying mountain roads.

But the capture of a snow leopard, once believed to be extinct in Afghanistan, didn't stay secret for long. The feline was to become the object of a four-day rescue operation that involved NATO forces, the U.S. ambassador in Kabul, a royal prince and even Afghan President Hamid Karzai. But the mission would end like so many others of similarly good intentions in Afghanistan. (See 10 species near extinction.)

First, the hunter and his friends were undone by their own greed. Upon reaching Feyzabad, they thought they might get a better price for their cat than \$50,000 and began to shop around. "Somebody on the Internet was supposedly offering \$2 million for a live snow leopard," says Mustapha Zaher, director general of the National Environmental Protection Agency in Kabul.

But the environmental protection agency office in Feyzabad was tipped off about the cat. Zaher happens to be a prince, the grandson of the late Afghan monarch Zaher Shah, and he has far more clout around Kabul



than the ordinary bureaucrat. "I raised a hullabaloo," Zaher tells TIME with a grin. He paged through his contacts book, calling U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry, a contingent of German troops stationed in Feyzabad (who at first were skittish about leaving their base, even though that region of Afghanistan is relatively calm). And he called the Afghan President. It had been a hard day for Karzai; suicide bombers and gunmen had attacked an Indian guesthouse in Kabul, killing dozens. But the President was sympathetic to the plight of the leopard. "He told me, 'Do what you can to save him,' " says Zaher. (See the top 10 animal stories of 2009.)

The leopard was confiscated from the hunters, and Richard Fite, a New Hampshire veterinarian who advises for the U.S. Agricultural Department in northern Afghanistan, was dispatched to tend the snow leopard. Fite was more accustomed to dealing with farm animals, and to encounter a snow leopard was a marvel. "I never imagined in my life that I would be so close to such a creature," he says in a telephone interview. At first, the leopard was kept in a cage at the police station, where it was poked by curious onlookers.

When Fite examined the leopard, it had been moved to the atrium of a nearby guesthouse, and its cage was littered with chunks of uneaten raw meat. The leopard growled at Fite but remained subdued, he says. When he looked into the eyes of the animal, says Fite, he could tell it was ailing. "All I could think of was the tragedy of it all," he says, adding, "The mental stress on the animal from capture, transport, being bound and being held for almost a week would have been unimaginable."

Over the next three days, Fite tended to the leopard. Then, after advice from experts at the Wildlife Conservation Society in Kabul, a decision was made to fly the leopard back to the Wakhan and free it into the wild, once it had regained strength. "We didn't want it dumped unconscious on a snowfield where it would freeze to death," says Dave Lawson, the Society's country director. Bad weather kept the U.S. helicopter grounded. After what seemed like a day of improved health — the leopard was holding its head up and grooming itself — and a break in the storm clouds that would allow the chopper to take off, Fite was optimistic. But the next morning, on March 2, he was informed that the snow leopard had died. "My guess — and it is just that — is that it died from shock" he says, adding, "Snow leopards are solitary, reclusive animals."

An Afghan elder who had seen the leopard in the cage wept when he saw its dead body carried out. "A lot of these mountain people have respect for wildlife," says Lawson, who was told by an elder that "God put these animals here for us to look after." The death of a snow leopard may not be of great consequence in Afghanistan's larger turmoil. But for many Afghans, the snow leopard is a symbol of the country's spirit of untamed wildness. For a few brief moments, everyone from the President to the top U.S. diplomat in the country turned their gaze away from politics and terrorism to a shivering, sick cat in a cage. And when it died, everyone from the highest echelons of power to humble villagers suffered a profound loss.



## Through Cage Bars, an Exotic Peek Into Drug Wars

By Simon Romero-New York Times-March 31, 2010



CALI, Colombia — Of all the animals that come to die under Ana Julia Torres's samán trees, the ocelots are among the most numerous. There are eight of them here, seized from the estate of a murdered cocaine trafficker, who apparently collected them in the belief that any self-respecting drug lord should always have eight ocelots in his dominion.

Ms. Torres's sanctuary houses hundreds of animals rescued largely from drug traffickers and paramilitary warlords, as well as from circuses and animal-smuggling rings, offering a strange window into the excesses and brutalities carried out in this country's endless drug wars.

Ms. Torres looks after Dany, a Bengal tiger whose caretakers, employed by a paramilitary commander, said that he used to eat the flesh of death-squad victims; a lethargic African lion that had been fed a steady diet of illicit narcotics by its owner; and the ocelots that belonged to a [drug lord with the nom-de-guerre Jabón](#), or Soap.

"Some of the cruelties I've seen make me ashamed to be a human being," said Ms. Torres, 50, a school principal and animal-rights advocate who initially opened the sanctuary 16 years ago for animals, including a now deceased elephant, that had been discarded by traveling circuses around [Colombia](#).

The creatures here, some 800 in all, range from the tiny kinkajou, a nocturnal mammal similar to a ferret found in Colombia's [rain forests](#), to baboons born across the Atlantic in Africa. Many of the former circus animals, including an old chimpanzee named Yoko, still find repose at Villa Lorena, as Ms. Torres's sanctuary is called. Other animals, like a king vulture and a [pygmy marmoset](#), one of the world's smallest monkeys, were rescued in raids on wildlife smugglers who seek to profit from Colombia's biodiversity.

But some of the most striking animals at Villa Lorena, located up a dirt road in the slum of Floralia, are the great cats that once belonged in the private zoos of drug traffickers, who still seem to find inspiration in the example of the dead cocaine baron Pablo Escobar.

Indeed, descendants of the hippos once owned by Mr. Escobar [still roam the grounds of Hacienda Nápoles](#), his once luxurious retreat, where he amassed a private collection of exotic species, including rhinoceroses and kangaroos.

Ms. Torres's sanctuary surpasses Mr. Escobar's menagerie in its diversity. About 500 iguanas roam its trees and pathways near corrals for peccaries, flamingos, mountain goats and peacocks. Cages house toucans and spider monkeys. Ms. Torres closes the sanctuary to all but a handful of visitors.



"The animals here are not meant to be exhibited," she said before leaning through cage bars to embrace and kiss on the lips a roaring lion named Jupiter, who was recovered from a circus where he had suffered from malnutrition. "They need to be protected, and have a right to live in peace."

Some of the animals under her care found anything but peace before arriving at Villa Lorena. Several years ago, she nursed back to health a spider monkey called Yeyo, found by the police in a puddle of his own blood after being beaten by its owner. While Yeyo lost an eye from the abuse, he lived quietly at Villa Lorena until his death, she said.

Then there is the lion named Rumbero, rescued from a drug trafficker near the city of Manizales. Rumbero's eyes have an empty, glazed look. Ms. Torres said he was forced to consume [marijuana](#), ecstasy and other substances at bacchanals in Colombia's backlands.

At almost every turn at Villa Lorena, animals display indignities suffered at the hands of man. A caiman with a severed limb stretches under the tropical sun. A macaw with a sawed-off beak flutters in its cage. Luís, a cougar who once belonged to a drug trafficker, limps around his cage, the result of having a front leg cut off.

Ms. Torres speaks of each case with passion, somewhere between outrage and desperation, bringing to mind the episode in Nietzsche's life when he broke into tears and threw his arms around a horse on the streets of Turin while attempting to save it from [a coachman's whipping](#).

"We've received horses here, too, including one that a man in Cali tried to burn alive after dousing it with gasoline," she said, motioning to Villa Lorena's burial ground near the chimpanzee's cage, where workmen bury all the animals that die at the sanctuary. "It didn't make it."

For others in animal-rights circles here, Ms. Torres's sanctuary raises issues that are both philosophical and practical. "Animals are not like human beings, who can adjust to being in a wheelchair," said Jorge Gardeazábal, a veterinary surgeon at Cali's zoo.

Dr. Gardeazábal, citing the example of an ocelot with a severed leg, said that he preferred [euthanasia](#) in such cases, since the ocelot would be unable to carry out its genetic instinct to flee with quickness when it sensed fear. Still, he said he supported Ms. Torres's sanctuary. "But it's an activity that should be regulated by the authorities," he said, to ensure the well-being of the animals and those who work with them.



While Ms. Torres receives help from Cali's environmental police, who deliver rescued animals to her doorstep, she shuns government financing and other involvement with the authorities. She relies, instead, on private donations and food given to the sanctuary by grocery stores.

Eliécer Zorrilla, an official with Cali's environmental police, said the hands of law enforcement were largely tied when it

came to limiting the traffic in exotic animals, even those that were abused and ended up at Villa Lorena. Colombian law does not include prison terms for people found mistreating animals or owning a rare species, he said.

Mr. Zorrilla added that his officers could seize wild animals from their owners only when they were in the process of being transported or traded. "We have no idea how many other wild animals, from this continent or others, are being mistreated in captivity," he said.

In an ironic twist, man's clash with nature is also what sustains the animals in Villa Lorena. Roadkill, largely in the form of horses hit by cars, provides much of the meat for Ms. Torres's carnivores. Workmen butcher the donated horse meat and toss it into cages, where it is quickly consumed.

Ms. Torres said that it took time for Dany, the man-eating Bengal tiger, to get used to his new diet. He roared with startling vigor one recent afternoon when it came time to eat; steel bars separated him from the laborer throwing him raw flesh. "Dany's one of the few animals here that I cannot embrace," said Ms. Torres. "At least not yet."



## ZAMBIA WITHDRAWS PROPOSAL TO TRADE IVORY

### Loses on downlisting proposal, too.



(Doha)—Zambia has withdrawn its request for the sale of stockpiled ivory during the debate over its proposal to the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna Flora. This ensures that the Meeting will not allow trade in any elephant ivory.

“The Parties have made it quite clear that there should be no trade in elephant ivory,” noted Will Travers, CEO of the Born Free Foundation and President of the Species Survival Network. “Any legal trade in elephant ivory incentivizes elephant poaching and illegal ivory sales. Intelligent elephant management dictates that the species be protected from trade in tusks. It’s just that simple.”

Despite the removal of the ivory provision, Zambia still tried to downlist its population of African elephants from Appendix I to Appendix II and failed in a vote of 55 in favor, 36 against, 40 abstentions.

“Downlisting would have sent a horrible message to poachers and criminal syndicates Africa,” Travers added. “I am relieved that Zambia’s revised proposal did not succeed, and this view is shared by the majority of African elephant range states.”

## Open letter to Vitalis Chadenga

Wednesday, 26 May 2010

### *(Director General Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority)*

I am writing to you in my capacity as Director of ElephantVoices, as a world authority on the behaviour, welfare and conservation of elephants and on behalf of the undersigned organisations and wildlife experts. During the course of the last week the international media has been publishing a number of negative reports regarding the capture and imminent shipment from Zimbabwe to North Korea of wild species of animals captured in Hwange National Park. In one of the reports you are referred to as saying that the impending export of elephants and five other species (giraffes, zebras, warthog, spotted hyenas and rock hyrax) is a "business arrangement" following an application by North Korea for these animals, and that your authority is satisfied with conditions in the receiving country.

We are extremely disillusioned to learn that, indeed, your offices are responsible for carrying out these captures. We are particularly disappointed to hear that the animals are being captured and held in a National Park – a place that most citizens of the world would view as a place of sanctuary for animals, rather than a place of abusive treatment.

For the following reasons we, once again, request that Zimbabwe ban the practice of capturing live elephants for captive use with immediate effect:

#### 1. The capture of wild elephants is of no conservation benefit

The IUCN issued the following clear statement opposing capture of wild elephants in 2003: "Believing there to be no direct benefit for in situ conservation of African Elephants, the African Elephant Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission does not endorse the removal of African Elephants from the wild for any captive use."

#### 2. Capture, separation and incarceration of elephants violates CITES requirements

Zimbabwe's elephants are listed on Appendix II of CITES.

#### 3. Capture and captivity are detrimental to the individual's welfare

Decades of in depth scientific research on wild African elephants has shown that elephants are highly intelligent and have evolved extremely complex social and bonding behaviours. The capture of elephants from the wild, and specifically the removal of individual juvenile elephants from their families, has long been recognised as an unacceptable practice by elephant scientists and experts as it is highly traumatic for both the captured individuals and their remaining family members (Document 2).

#### 4. New legislation – winds of change

Due to the enormous welfare implications for elephants there is a global movement towards stopping the practice of capturing and keeping elephants captive in this manner. In 2008, South Africa recognised the capture of wild elephants as an unethical practice.

#### 5. Zimbabwe's image

Whether CITES views such exports as acceptable has little bearing on the views of an increasingly discerning public, who cares about the welfare of animals, particularly of elephants.

We are already aware of further media interest in this issue and, when questioned, wish to represent as accurately as possible the situation which is why I would ask you as a matter of some urgency to clarify what is happening and, as I have said before, hopefully confirm that the proposed shipment of wild animals to North Korea will not go ahead and that the Government of Zimbabwe confirms its policy of not capturing elephants (and, I hope, other wild animals) for public display.

We look forward to being able to commend Zimbabwe for banning the capture and trade of elephants. – *JOYCE POOLE, Co-Director, Elephant Voices*

# SANCTUARY NEWS

## ELEPHANT SANCTUARY

Carol Buckley - Co-Founder of the Elephant Sanctuary introduces [International Elephant Aid](#) and [www.CarolBuckley.com](#) and heads to Asia for Worldwide Elephant Assistance.



Carol Buckley, leading elephant authority and co-founder of The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, is headed to Asia. Elephant experts from around the world have reached out and asked Buckley to share her expertise and participate in several elephant welfare projects abroad. "I am heartened to have the opportunity to share my knowledge, especially non-dominance, passive-control elephant management with mahouts in Nepal and Thailand. This is a continuation of my life-long work to establish compassionate care of elephants, and to launch my vision of true sanctuary for captive elephants everywhere," stated Buckley.

Drawing from the prototype of the 2700 acre natural-habitat elephant sanctuary she co-founded in 1995, Buckley will continue to inspire others to think beyond the boundaries of their own experience to become instruments of change. Increased awareness and sensitivity will naturally lead to the acceptance of free-range elephant sanctuaries worldwide.

Recently Buckley launched [International Elephant Aid](#), a new nonprofit organization. The mission of International Elephant Aid is to assist

elephants worldwide...one elephant at a time.

Buckley states: "I believe in the power of one, that every elephant counts."

Recently, The Elephant Sanctuary Board of Directors took steps that surprised the thousands of Sanctuary supporters by posting a short statement on the Sanctuary website. "After 15 years of service, the Sanctuary celebrates the contributions of Co-founder and former CEO Carol Buckley, and the Board of Directors of The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee announced [today] it is beginning an international search for a CEO of the organization."

Supporters and animal experts from around the world have strongly expressed their concerns regarding Buckley's departure from managing the Sanctuary. Buckley responded, "From what I have been told, which isn't very much, the answer is quite simple: the Board of Directors wants to make changes. Though I



started the Sanctuary with my elephant Tarra, I do not own it. In the past, I held the vision, and the Board supported and worked with me to implement that vision.

The Board now has its own vision which seems to veer from the singularly focused true-Sanctuary concept that I support. "When asked about her future with the Sanctuary, Buckley responded, "Of course, I am not walking away from "the Girls" or the Sanctuary. For the moment I am walking towards helping to create a better life for elephants world-wide. In my absence a competent team will be working on my behalf."

Buckley has more than thirty-five years experience in the care and management of elephants. A well known speaker on elephant care, Buckley has consulted for government agencies and private organizations to improve elephant care programs and strengthen regulations pertaining to the care of elephants in captivity. In 1995, Buckley co-founded the nation's largest natural habitat refuge for old, sick, and needy elephants, and was later honored as A Hero for The Planet by TIME magazine for her innovative work. Buckley is the author of three children's books about elephants.

To find out more about Carol Buckley, visit her website at [www.carolbuckley.com](http://www.carolbuckley.com); and to monitor her travels, visit her International Elephant Aid blog at <http://www.carolbuckley.com/elevisions/>.



**TARRA**

## WILDCAT SANCTUARY

### Cheyenne's Memorial April 2010



One of the greatest rewards as a keeper is to help a fearful new rescue grow into a confident, trusting resident. It is our duty as keepers to become their "friend". Working on the cats clocks' is often a long process of consistent dedication and compassion to renew their faith in humans again. While many are only resistant for a few months, some take years. It is these residents and their accomplishments of which we are the most proud.

With that being said, the hardest thing to do as a keeper is letting our "friends" go and process that the special moments we share with them are only a memory. With great sorrow we must tell you that [Cheyenne](#), the once apprehensive cougar has passed in the early hours of Wednesday morning. To honor her and her amazing growth we as keepers want to share the journey of this beautiful girl with you.

About 2-1/2 years ago [Cheyenne](#) was rescued from deplorable conditions in rural Nebraska. Her life consisted of a small, feces filled enclosure and a couple rusty old oil drums to den in. She suffered from frostbite on her tail and both ears as a result of inadequate shelter. Without a source of water in her enclosure she was severely dehydrated. In addition, her inconsistent diet resulted in broken and abscessed teeth. This poor cougar was in trouble and desperately needed our help.

Upon arrival to TWS she was spayed, given a full veterinary exam and care, and was moved to quarantine. [Cheyenne](#) was so afraid of humans that she hid in her den for 3 weeks. She would wait for night to emerge from her den to eat and explore her new home. Keepers would do rounds the next day, only to find her tracks in the snow and her food to be gone. We waited anxiously to just get a glimpse of her to ensure she was ok. Staff and volunteers began reading to her softly from a distance. Our work was beginning to pay off and she started coming out on evening rounds. This was her first big step and an uplifting moment for all of us.

Over the next few months she was getting more courageous by the day and reached her second milestone by coming into her lockout when it was time to eat. Keepers then began walking

around her enclosure feeding her small pieces as a reward when she would follow. This was a big step to getting her used to us moving around her without fear she was going to be hurt.

She then moved to a larger enclosure near other residents at the sanctuary. She continued to show growth when we were present. She was now sunbathing and regaining her wild instinct to stalk bobcats in a distant cage. She was even spotted for the first time playing with a toy in her enclosure, her mobile.

At last it was [Cheyenne's](#) time to move to her permanent free roaming habitat in [Cougar Cove](#). With 5,000 square feet all to herself she had plenty of room to relax in her thick, tall grass and still be vigilant of her surroundings. Soon after, her glow in the dark ball was in a different area each morning and she was seen napping in her hammock during the day. These small signs showed keepers that her faith in humans was almost back.

It wasn't long before she began coming right up to us as we would do rounds and even lounging in the open grass sunning her belly in front of small groups. The keepers were in disbelief when one afternoon she played with her enrichment while they were right by her. She was so happy flipping the box around, smashing it and tearing it apart. She knew we were watching and didn't care. She was in her moment and we felt honored that she would share that precious experience with us.

It is as though [Cheyenne](#) was testing us as humans, to see if we could be trusted. Once she realized she could, it seemed she let us know it was her time to go. She quit eating two days before her passing. Staff looked into her eyes, saw her calming presence and knew it was her time. Considering that [Cheyenne](#) was confined for most of her life and her past mistrust in humans, the staff faced a tough decision on what to do. We all felt it would be best to leave her in serenity, sleeping in her tall grass on a warm April day with a gentle breeze in the air and the lions roaring in the distance. She showed no signs of pain, but seemed rather content that we were allowing her to go the way she wanted to. Although some may take more time than others to come around, it goes to show that with some help from the sanctuary anything is possible. We would like to leave you with a quote that we feel would closely represent [Cheyenne](#) and her special growth with her caretakers:

"The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when you discover that someone else believes in you and is willing to trust you with a friendship." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Trista Campbell, Senior Keeper - 4/14/10

Please [donate](#) to Cougar Cove in honor of Cheyenne and others like her.





## **THE ANIMAL WORLD**

A giant farm dog and a tiny piglet cuddle up as if they were family after the baby runt was dismissed by its own mother. Surrogate mum Katjinga, an eight-year-old Rhodesian Ridgeback, took on motherly duties for grunter Paulinchen - a tiny pot-bellied pig - and seems to be taking the adoption in her stride. Lonely Paulinchen was luckily discovered moments from death and placed in the care of the dog who gladly accepted it as one of her own. Thankfully for the two-week old mini porker, Katjinga fell in love with her at first sight and saved her bacon.



And the unlikely relationship has made the wrinkly piggy a genuine sausage dog. In these adorable images Paulinchen can even be seen trying to suckle from her gigantic new mum.

The two animals live together on a huge 20-acre farm in Hoerstel ,

Germany , where Katjinga's owners Roland Adam, 54, and his wife Edit, 44, a bank worker, keep a pair of breeding Vietnamese pigs.



Nose place like home: The baby piglet nuzzles up to its new mum

Property developer Roland found the weak and struggling piglet after she was abandoned by the rest of her family one evening after she was born.

He said: "The pigs run wild on our land and the sow had given birth to a litter of five in our forest.

"I found Paulinchen all alone and when I lifted her up she was really cold



I felt sure some local foxes would have taken the little pig that very night so I took it into my house and gave her to Katjinga..

"She had just finished with a litter of her own, who are now 10 months, so I thought there was a chance she might take on the duties of looking after her.

"Katjinga is the best mother you can imagine. She immediately fell in love with the piggy. Straight away she started to clean it like it was one of her own puppies.

"Days later she started lactating again and giving milk for the



piggy. She obviously regards it now as her own baby."

Mum of the year? Quite possibly.



"

Have a Good Day! Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

CRITTERS GET EVEN!!!











## **NATURE**

# **The Sky Before Katrina Struck**



Whoever took these pictures did an awesome job.

And whoever said Katrina was 'awesome and terrifying' is telling the truth. Wow, take a look at this ....

These pictures were made by a man in Magee, MS where the eye of the storm passed thru- what an experience. Magee is 150 miles North of Waveland, Mississippi where the Hurricane made landfall. The dance with Katrina, part of her beauty as she left destruction on her exit. They are remarkably dramatic...













The following picture was taken from the third story balcony of Saint Stanislaus College located next door to Our Lady of the Gulf church in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi on the morning of August 29th, 2005.

This is believed to be the initial tidal wave from Hurricane Katrina. The tidal wave was approximately 35 to 40 feet high. When it slammed into the beach front communities of Bay Saint Louis and Waveland, Mississippi to completely destroy 99% of every structure along the beach for 9 miles and over a mile inland. The destruction only started there. The flooding that continued inland destroyed the contents of all but 35 homes in these two communities of approximately 14,000 people.



# MIDDLE EAST

## TIMELINE: GAZA FLOTILLA

On May 31, the Israel Defense Forces intercepted six ships, known as the “Free Gaza” flotilla. The flotilla attempted to break Israel’s blockade of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. Despite claiming its primary aim was to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza, in reality, its objective was to provoke Israel and incite international scrutiny on the blockade.

The flotilla was sponsored by the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation—an organization tied to various Islamic terrorist groups including Hamas and al-Qaeda. Israel’s interception of the ships—and the deaths of nine individuals, including some radicals with ties to terrorist groups—have garnered tremendous media attention and international condemnation.

The following is a timeline of events surrounding Israel’s interception of the “Free Gaza” flotilla:

### MAY 25, 2010:

Aware of the upcoming “Free Gaza” flotilla, Israel advises Turkey and other governments, whose nationals were planning to participate, that it will not allow the self-styled humanitarian mission to breach its defensive naval blockade of Gaza. Instead, Israel offers to offload all humanitarian goods in the port of Ashdod and have United Nations personnel deliver the items to Gaza. Turkey rejects the offer; other European governments try to dissuade their nationals from participating to no avail.

### MAY 28, 2010:

600 pro-Palestinian passengers, including radicals with ties to terrorist groups and dozens of women and children—boarded the *Mavi Marmara* ship in Antalya, Turkey—the lead vessel in the “Free Gaza” flotilla. Organized by the Islamist ‘Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation’ (IHH) — which has links to terrorist groups including Hamas and al-Qaeda—the stated goal of the mission was to provide “humanitarian aid” to Palestinians in Gaza. Many though, saw the flotilla as something entirely different.

“This mission is not about delivering humanitarian supplies, it’s about breaking Israel’s siege on 1.5 million Palestinians,” said a flotilla participant. Violent celebratory rallies, where crowds yelled chants invoking death to Jews, sent off flotilla leader and IHH President Bulent Yildirim and his supporters on their way to international waters, where they would meet up with five other ships departing from Turkey, Greece and Ireland. En-route, Arab news-channel Al-Jazeera broadcasts interviews with passengers exalting jihadist martyrdom and singing Palestinian intifada songs.

### MAY 29, 2010:

Hamas consents to broadcast on its state-controlled Al-Aqsa television in Gaza, an interview with a leading Gaza professor calling on flotilla passengers to engage in martyrdom with the people of Gaza.

### MAY 30, 2010:

Despite repeated warning from the Israel Defense Forces, all six vessels making up the “Free Gaza” flotilla continue their voyage toward Israel’s maritime security zone. Aboard the *Mavi Marmara*, Yildirim tells Turkish television, “We will definitely resist and we will not allow the Israelis to enter here.”

He continues, "The Israelis think that the more soldiers they send, the less casualties there will be among the activists. On this ship there are also women and children. The whole world knows this. We'll show them what it means to board the ship. If Israel wants to board this ship, it will meet strong resistance."

#### **MAY 31, 2010:**

Israeli Navy personnel warn all six flotilla ships that they are about to enter restricted waters. Israel again offers to collect humanitarian aid and have it delivered to the Gaza Strip by the United Nations. The ships, again, refuse to comply.

The Israeli Navy begins boarding the flotilla vessels—equipped with paint-ball rifles to ensure minimum casualties. Their hand guns were to be used as a means of last resort.

Passengers aboard five of the six ships cooperate with Israeli forces—the *Mavi Marmara* does not.

Aboard the *Mavi Marmara*, Yildirim announces, "We are going to resist and resistance will win." Militants on the ship begin yelling, "Intifada! Intifada!"

As the first Israeli soldier is lowered by helicopter onto the *Mavi Marmara*, militants onboard tried connecting the steel cables from the overhead helicopters to the boat's antenna, in order to cause the helicopters to crash. As Israeli soldiers continue boarding the ship, *Mavi Marmara* passengers begin severely beating the soldiers with iron rods, stabbing them with knives and trying to lynch them. One soldier is thrown off the deck.

While Israeli soldiers tried to gain control of the situation, militant mobs continued to beat them. Two Israeli soldiers had their pistols stolen and groups of passengers started shooting live fire at the Israelis.

After reporting back to their commanders, Israeli soldiers on board the ship were given the order to defend themselves using live ammunition. According to official reports, nine flotilla passengers, including radicals with ties to terrorist groups aboard the *Mavi Marmara*, were killed during Israel's defensive operation; seven Israeli commandoes were injured.

Eventually, all six flotilla ships were escorted to the Israeli port of Ashdod where a number of participants were detained. Those with injuries were taken by the Israel Navy to hospitals in Israel for medical treatment; several other participants were deported and sent home.

#### **JUNE 1, 2010:**

Despite the violent attack on Israeli soldiers by militant passengers aboard the *Mavi Marmara*, Israel made the decision to coordinate the transport of all humanitarian goods from each of the six ships, to the Gaza Strip. 251 H Street, NW Tel 202-639-5200

Washington, DC 20001 Fax 202-639-0630 [www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org)

## ecnarF morf swen dab yreV

I received this email today and was asked to forward it on. please read!  
Once again, the real news in France is conveniently not being reported as it should.

To give you an idea of what's going on in that country where there are now between 5 and 6 million Muslims and about 600,000 Jews, here is an E-mail that came from a Jew living in France ..

Please read! "Will the world say nothing - again - as it did in Hitler's time?" He writes: "I AM A JEW - therefore I am forwarding this to everyone on all my e-mail lists. I will not sit back and do nothing.

Nowhere have the flames of anti-Semitism burned more furiously than in France ..

1. In Lyon , a car was rammed into a synagogue and set on fire.
2. In Montpellier , the Jewish religious center was firebombed;
3. so were synagogues in Strasbourg and Marseilles ;
4. so was a Jewish school in Creteil - all recently.
5. A Jewish sports club in Toulouse was attacked with Molotov cocktails
6. and on the statue of Alfred Dreyfus, in Paris , the words 'Dirty Jew' were

קבלתי את הדואל הזה היום. אנא קראו אותו !

שוב, החדשות מצרפת לא מדווחות כפי שהקבאמת

בצרפת שי 6 מיליון ערבים ו-600,000 יהודים. כדי להראות את המצב, מצורף הדואל שקבלתי מיהודי שגר בצרפת

האם העולם ישתוק שוב כפי שקרה בתקופת היטלר ימ"ש? כיהודי אני לא יכול לשבת ולא לעשות דבר לכן אני מעביר את הדואל הזה.

יש עכשיו מתקפה אנטישמית בצרפת:

1. ב-ליון מכוננית דהרה לתוך בית כנסת
2. ב-מונטפלייר שרפו את המרכז היהודי
3. ב-שטרסבורג ובמרסיי כנ"ל
4. כך גם בביה"ס היהודי -בקריטיי
5. ב-טולוז נזרק בקבוק תבערה על מועדון ספורט יהודי
6. פסלו של אלפרד דרייפוס בפרזיז זוהם בכתובת "יהודי מלוכלך"
7. ב-בונדי, 15 אנשים היכו יהודי בנבחרת הכדורגל במקלות ומוטות מתכת.
8. אוטובוס הסעה עם ילדי ביי"ס ב-אונריוויי הותקף 3 פעמים ב-14 החודשים



- האחרונים.
9. לטענת המשטרה היו רק 10 עד 12 ארועים אנטישמיים ביום ב-30 הימים האחרונים
7. In Bondy, 15 men beat up members of a Jewish football team with sticks and metal bars.
10. קירות בשכונות יהודיות כוסו בכתובות "יהודים לתאי הגזים" ו"מוות ליהודים"
8. The bus that takes Jewish children to school in Aubervilliers has been attacked three times in the last 14 months.
11. קצב יהודי נורה מאקדה בטולוז
9. According to the Police, metropolitan Paris has seen 10 to 12 anti-Jewish incidents PER DAY in the past 30 days.
12. זוג יהודי צעיר הוכה ע"י 5 אנשים ב-ויירבאן בצרפת (האישה הייתה בהריון).
10. Walls in Jewish neighborhoods have been defaced with slogans proclaiming 'Jews to the gas chambers' and 'Death to the Jews.'
13. ב-סרקסל הושחת בי"ס יהודי. זה קרה בדיוק לפני שבוע
11. A gunman opened fire on a kosher butcher's shop (and, of course, the butcher) in Toulouse, France
12. A Jewish couple in their 20's were beaten up by five men in Villeurbanne , France (the woman was pregnant).
13. A Jewish school was broken into and vandalized in Sarcelles , France . This was just in the past week
- So I call on you, whether you are a fellow Jew, a friend, or merely a person with the capacity and desire to distinguish decency from depravity, to do - at least - these three simple things:
- First, care enough to stay informed. Don't ever let yourself become deluded into thinking that this is not your fight.
- I remind you of what **Pastor Neimollersaid** in World War II: '
- לכן אני קורה לך, אם אתה יהודי, או חבר של יהודי או סתם בן אדם עם יכולת ורצון להבחין בין הגינות לשחיתות, תעשה לפחות את 3 הדברים הפשוטים הבאים:
- ראשית: שיהיה חשוב לך לדעת מה קורה. אל תיגרר למחשבה שזה לא המאבק שלך
- אני רוצה להזכיר את מה שאמר **פאסטור ניימולר** במלחמת העולם ה-II:

First they came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up, because I wasn't a Communist

Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up, because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up, because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me, and by that time there was no one left to speak up for me.'

Second, boycott France and French products. Only the Arab countries are more toxically anti-Semitic and, unlike them, France exports more than just oil and hatred.

So boycott their wines and their perfumes.  
Boycott their clothes and their foodstuffs.

Boycott their movies.

Definitely boycott their shores.

If we are resolved we can exert amazing pressure and, whatever else we may know about the French, we most certainly know that they are like a cobweb in a hurricane in the face of well-directed pressure.

Third, send this along to your family, your friends, and your co-workers. Think of all of the people of good conscience that you know and let them know that you - and the people that you care - about need their help.

The number one bestselling book in France is.... 'September 11: The Frightening Fraud' which argues that no plane ever hit the Pentagon!

er :nO sihT ssaP esaelP

"בתחילה הם יצאו נגד הקומוניזם ואני שתקתי כי לא הייתי קומוניסט

אח"כ הם יצאו נגד היהודים, ואני שתקתי כי לא הייתי יהודי

אח"כ הם יצאו נגד הקתולים ואני שתקתי כי הייתי פרוטסטנטי

אח"כ הם יצאו נגדי, אבל באותו זמן כבר לא נותר משהו שידבר למעני."

שנית: החרם את צרפת ואת התוצרים של צרפת. רק מדינות ערב יותר אנטישמיות מצרפת ומייצאות אף הן נוסף לנפט גם שנאה.

לכן החרם את היין שלהם ואת הבשמים

החרם את הבגדים והמזון שלהם

החרם את הסרטים שלהם

כמובן החרם את החופים שלהם

אם נהיה נחושים בדעתנו נוכל להפעיל לחץ חזק, כי כידוע הצרפתים הם כמו קורי עכביש בסופת הוריקן כשהם נתונים ללחץ ממוקד.

שלישית: שילחו דואל זה לכל מי שאתם יכולים...

ספר רב המכר בצרפת הוא: " 11 בספטמבר: הונאת ההפחדה" שטוען שאף מטוס לא פגע בפנטגון...

אנא העבירו זאת כדי שההיסטוריה לא תחזור על עצמה.

## **Letter to the StarTribune – published March 28, 2010**

### **Keep aid to Israel, our one true Mideast ally**

An April 26 letter writer displays an unfortunate yet commonly seen level of ignorance and lack of historical perspective by suggesting that to further peace, the United States should stop funding Israel.

The Israelis, as well as most of the world, want peace. Unfortunately, Hamas, which rules Gaza, continues to hold firm to its central declaration, which seeks the destruction of the Jewish state. As the well-known saying goes, if the Palestinians laid down their arms, there would be peace in the Middle East; if the Israelis laid down theirs, there would be a massacre.

Israel is our only ally in a sea of enemies, and is only democracy in the entire region. All of its citizens, including Palestinians, enjoy health care, education, freedom to vote, travel and other amenities of western civilization. Not to mention the fact that Israel represents the best U.S. partner in the fight against global terrorism.

Ken Fink, Minneapolis

### **Also from Ken Fink-**

A recent BRIEF in the sports section of Newsday touts Venus Williams's win over Israel's Shahar Peer in the semifinals of the Dubai Championships, an article that could have easily been missed or overlooked by the public in general. The REAL headlines- which should have been, in my opinion, given far greater press in a more obvious location- came at the end of the blurb. Williams agreed to defend her title this year ONLY if the Israeli player was admitted to the Emirates! As unbelievable as it should be in this day and age, the Israeli was DENIED a visa by United Arab Emirates authorities last year and could not participate. It is also sad to hear that she had to be surrounded by guards and only could play on the most secure court-not Center Court-all week.

Certainly, Ms. Williams deserves far greater recognition of her compassionate and selfless act. She stood up for her principals and put her professional position on the line in order to achieve her objective. Very few individuals would have had the guts to do what she did. For this, I feel she should be commended and held up as a role model for other athletes and professionals who may have the opportunity one day to make a decision of this nature.



## BOOKS

New York Times Book Review March 14, 2010

Death Squad

By Joshua Hammer

### BLACK HEARTS



One Platoon's Descent Into Madness in Iraq's Triangle of Death.

By Jim Frederick.

Illustrated. 439 pp. Harmony Books. \$26.

Of all the crimes that sullied the record of the United States military in Iraq — the torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib, the killings of 24 Iraqi men, women and children by Marines in November 2005 in Haditha — the murder of an entire Iraqi family in the village of Yusufiya may rank as the most chilling. On March 12, 2006, United States soldiers were summoned to a small house in the heart of the insurgent-filled "Triangle of Death" south and west of Baghdad, where they discovered the charred remains of a 14-year-old girl who had been raped, shot to death, then burned with kerosene, along with the bodies of her 6-year-old sister and her parents. At first the killings were attributed to a feud between Iraqis, but after a soldier came forward with information he had gleaned from comrades, the Army arrested the real perpetrators: four soldiers from Bravo Company, a casualty-plagued unit in the Army's First Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Press attention centered on the group's ringleader, Pvt. Steven Green from Midland, Tex., "a petulant loner and a hard-drinking druggie" according to Newsweek, who was afflicted by a "seething, seemingly random rage." Despite Green's repeated troubles with the law, he had easily enlisted in an Army hurting for recruits and breezed through basic training. Before his deployment, Green made no secret of his bloodlust, reportedly telling one neighbor, "I'm gonna go over there and kill 'em all."

Jim Frederick's "Black Hearts: One Platoon's Descent Into Madness in Iraq's Triangle of Death," is a riveting account of the crime and the events leading up to it. Frederick, a former Tokyo bureau chief for Time magazine, became curious about the case after learning that the platoon to which the killers belonged had been traumatized by another gruesome episode around the same time: the abduction, torture and murder of three men in their ranks by Iraqi insurgents. A short time after that, he received a phone call from an Army lawyer representing one of the accused, who described near-continuous violence, chain-of-command failures and the breakdown of discipline in Bravo Company's theater of operations: "What that company is going through, it would turn your hair white," he said. Frederick interviewed dozens of soldiers, followed courtroom proceedings and inspected documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. The result is a narrative that combines elements of "In Cold Blood" and "Black Hawk Down" with a touch of "Apocalypse Now" as it builds toward its terrible climax.

Frederick's tale begins with the deployment of Bravo Company in the fall of 2005, when United States



forces in Iraq were losing ground to the Sunni insurgency. Impressing the brigade commander with its combat readiness, the company was assigned to a 50-square-mile patch of villages and farmland south of Baghdad. "The terrain was perfect for guerrilla warfare," Frederick writes, describing warrens of houses, 10-foot-high elephant grass and irrigation canals that "diced up the land like a maze." Bravo's mission was to keep insurgents out of the capital by seizing control of key highways and winning the hearts and minds

of the local population. They set up shop in an abandoned potato processing plant, a "gigantic corrugated-tin barn" whose previous military occupants had left the place a shambles and provided a foretaste of the stresses that lay ahead. "Feces and other waste clogged the gutters. Discarded food, including slabs of meat, was welded by heat and sand to the floor of the chow hall, while other provisions rotted in open freezers."

Thrown into the heartland of a growing insurgency, with undefined goals and a shortage of manpower, Bravo Company began piling up casualties at an alarming rate. An unassuming Iraqi man shot two of them dead at point-blank range at a stationary checkpoint; others were blown apart while searching for improved improvised explosive devices, or I.E.D.'s, on foot patrols. As the deaths mounted, the troops grew resentful of the superiors who sent them into hazardous missions without rest or proper equipment, and increasingly hostile to the Iraqis they were supposed to be winning over.

Frederick captures the terror of men who knew they could be blown up at any moment, and the way that fear soon metamorphosed into indiscriminate hatred. Describing the aftermath of an I.E.D. explosion, he writes: "There's a man on a cellphone, a lady putting out some washing, a kid walking down the road, and you just cannot figure it. How can none of these people know anything about what just happened here? . . . How could you not want to kill them, too, for protecting the person who just tried to kill you?" Of the three

platoons in Bravo Company, First suffered the most losses and had the hardest time coping. Some drank heavily and numbed themselves with drugs; they entertained one another by passing around video montages of corpses and battle kills: "One, with a title card dedicated to 'Mr. Squishy Head' — a dead body whose skull had been smashed in — was set to the track of Rage Against the Machine's 'How I Could Just Kill a Man.' "

Aside from the perpetrators, Frederick refrains from singling out villains, steeping his character portraits in ambiguity. The closest approximation of a bad guy is Lieut. Col. Tom Kunk, 47, whose "large, shiny, hairless dome earned him the unit-appropriate nickname of 'the Bald Eagle.' " Publicly humiliating those who fell short of his standards, Kunk shrugged off



complaints and singled out First Platoon for special abuse. Sgt. Jeff Fenlason restrained his soldiers' impulses to lash out at Iraqis, but he rarely left the base and failed to notice how strung-out and desensitized to violence his men were becoming. Sgt. Anthony Yribe, the squad leader, "a walking, talking G.I. Joe action figure," was a fearless soldier who exerted a magnetic hold on his men, but his ethical lapses and contempt for Iraqis seem to have percolated down the line. In one telling scene, he accidentally shoots to death an Iraqi woman at a checkpoint, then gives tacit approval to a cover-up; later he has to be stopped from summarily executing a 72-year-old Iraqi man who panics during a nighttime raid on his house and fires a pistol. After Green confesses to Yribe, the sergeant tells the killer to keep quiet and says nothing about the crime. (By contrast, Pfc. Justin Watt, who braved his comrades' scorn and threats and went public with what he knew, emerges as one of the book's few heroes.)

In the end, flawed leadership, bad luck and a virulent mix of personalities seem to have led inexorably to the horror of March 12. Just six months into their deployment, one sergeant told Frederick: "First Platoon had become insane. What does an infantry rifle platoon do? It destroys. That's what it's trained to do. Now . . . let slip the leash, and it becomes something monstrous." Frederick's extraordinary book is a testament to a misconceived war, and to the ease with which ordinary men, under certain conditions, can transform into monsters.

*Joshua Hammer, a former bureau chief for Newsweek, is a freelance foreign correspondent. He is writing a book about German colonialism in southern Africa.*



**BOOKSHELF by Joseph Loconte-APRIL 22, 2010 Wall Street Journal**  
**Belief In Action**  
**Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy by Eric Metaxas**

In Hitler's Germany, a Lutheran pastor chooses resistance and pays with his life.

In April 1933, during the early months of Nazi rule in Germany, the "Aryan Paragraph," as it came to be called, went into effect. A new law banned anyone of Jewish descent from government employment. Hitler's assault on the Jews—already so evidently under way in his toxic rhetoric and in the ideological imperatives of his party—was moving into a crushing legal phase. German churches, which relied on state support, now faced a choice: preserve their subsidies by dismissing their pastors and employees with Jewish blood—or resist. Most Protestant and Catholic leaders fell into line, visibly currying favor with the regime or quietly complying with its edict.

Such ready capitulation makes the views of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a young Lutheran theologian in Hitler's Germany, all the more remarkable. Within days of the new law's promulgation, the 27-year-old pastor published an essay titled "The Church and the Jewish Question," in which he challenged the legitimacy of a regime that contravened the tenets of Christianity. The churches of Germany, he wrote, shared "an unconditional obligation" to help the victims of an unjust state "even if they [the victims] do not belong to the Christian community." He went further: Christians might be called upon not only to "bandage the victims under the wheel" of oppression but "to put a spoke in the wheel itself." Before the decade was out, Bonhoeffer would join a conspiracy to assassinate Hitler and pay for such action with his life.



In "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy," Eric Metaxas tells Bonhoeffer's story with passion and theological sophistication, often challenging revisionist accounts that make Bonhoeffer out to be a "humanist" or ethicist for whom religious doctrine was easily disposable. In "Bonhoeffer" we meet a complex, provocative figure: an orthodox Christian who, at a grave historical moment, rejected what he called "cheap grace"—belief without bold and sacrificial action.

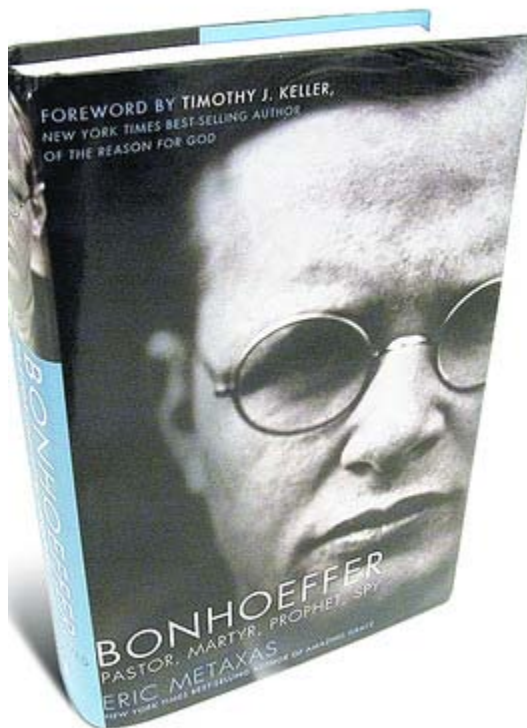
Since the 1960s, some of Bonhoeffer's admirers have seized upon a phrase from one of his letters—"religionless Christianity"—to argue that he favored social action over theology. In fact, Bonhoeffer used the phrase to suggest the kind of ritualistic and over-intellectualized faith that had failed to prevent the rise of Hitler. It was precisely religionless Christianity that he worried about. After a 1939 visit to New York's Riverside Church, a citadel of social-gospel liberalism, he wrote that he was stunned by the "self-indulgent" and "idolatrous religion" that he saw there. "I have no doubt at all that one day the storm will blow with full force on this religious hand-out," he wrote, "if God himself is still anywhere on the scene."

As the storms of hatred raged in Germany, Bonhoeffer moved beyond "confession"—that is, preaching and writing—and into rebellion. By the summer of 1940, he was recruited by Adm. Wilhelm Canaris and others as a double agent for their conspiracy against Hitler, an effort that operated out of the Abwehr (Nazi military intelligence). Henceforth he would pretend allegiance to the regime and pass along to the conspirators—

whose goal was Hitler's assassination—whatever intelligence he could gather. He depended on deception for his survival.

It was a bizarre role for a religious man, and a hitherto loyal German citizen, to play. As Mr. Metaxas notes: "For a pastor to be involved in a plot whose linchpin was the assassination of the head of state during a time of war, when brothers and sons and fathers were giving their lives for their country, was unthinkable." And yet it became thinkable for Bonhoeffer precisely because his understanding of faith required more than adhering to tidy legalisms about truth-telling and nonviolence.

Mr. Metaxas notes that Bonhoeffer drew deeply from historic Christianity, especially its emphasis on the love of God expressed in the life and teachings of Jesus. Bonhoeffer also had an extraordinary capacity for empathy, responding with ever more horror to the plight of those around him. In his book "Ethics" (1949), he chastised those who imagined they could confine their faith to the sanctuary and still live responsibly in an unjust world. In "The Cost of Discipleship" (1937), he made unreserved obedience to Jesus—in every realm of life—the mark of authentic belief. "If we worry about the dangers that beset us, if we gaze at the road instead of at him who goes before, we are already straying from the path."



It is here that many who invoke Bonhoeffer for their own causes stumble grievously. Atheists such as Christopher Hitchens praise his "admirable but nebulous humanism." Liberals exalt his social conscience while setting aside his belief in sin and judgment. The theologian Stanley Hauerwas has even tried to recruit Bonhoeffer for the pacifist cause. But Bonhoeffer argued pointedly in the opposite direction. "Only at the cost of self-deception," he wrote, can observant Christians preserve a facade of "private blamelessness clean from the stains of responsible action in the world."

After a failed assassination attempt on Hitler in 1943, Bonhoeffer was arrested on charges of assisting Jews and subverting Nazi policies. Two years later, in early April 1945—after his full involvement in the conspiracy became known—he was executed at the Flossenburg concentration camp in Bavaria. By all accounts he faced with courage and serenity the ultimate consequence of his choices. His was a radical obedience to God, a frame of mind widely viewed today with fear and loathing, even among the faithful. In "Bonhoeffer," Mr. Metaxas reminds us that there are forms

of religion—respectable, domesticated, timid—that may end up doing the devil's work for him.

Mr. Loconte is a senior lecturer in politics at the King's College in New York City and the editor of "The End of Illusions: Religious Leaders Confront Hitler's Gathering Storm."

## THE ARTS

### MINIATURES AMPLIFY A STORY OF HORROR

By Patricia Cohen

New York Times- June 1, 2010

Pauline Kalker, a founder of the Dutch theater company Hotel Modern, never uses the word toy when referring to her company's work "Kamp," a 36-by-33-foot model of Auschwitz populated by 3,000 three-inch-tall figures.



**Kamp,"** by the Dutch theater group Hotel Modern, presented at St. Ann's Warehouse Wednesday through Sunday, is a model of Auschwitz with thousands of three-inch-tall figures.

"The word is not in our vocabulary," said Ms. Kalker in accented English in a telephone interview from Spain, where the group was on tour. "We are making a live animation film onstage."

Yet "Kamp," which mixes theater, music, video, sculpture and puppetry, is scheduled for six performances this week starting on Wednesday as part of the Toy Theater Festival at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn. The festival celebrates miniature and puppet theaters, a popular 19th-century art form, from around the world. Ms. Kalker and her partners Arlene Hoorweg and Herman Helle arrived in New York over the holiday weekend to set up the "Kamp" scale model, a process that typically takes two days.

The 1986 publication of "Maus," Art Spiegelman's acclaimed graphic novel, in which Jews were portrayed as mice and Nazis as cats, helped pave the way for Holocaust stories to be told in genres that once might have been seen as too idiosyncratic or irreverent.

Ms. Kalker said that after mounting a critically acclaimed 2001 show about World War I that featured miniature figures, she realized that the company could approach Auschwitz similarly without lapsing into cliché. "Our medium had a special way of telling the war theme," she said.



Mr. Helle, who designed the models, said he started with one figure and one barracks. “We didn’t know exactly what story we could tell,” he said. He then made 100 puppets, but the three partners realized that was not enough. He made 300; still not enough. Even after making 3,000, he said, they recognized they could only present a fraction of the total picture.

The small figures are made of wire with heads of Plasticine, a clay that hardens when baked. The expressions — from poked-in eyes, noses and mouths — are frozen in Munch-like howls. The prisoners wear black-and-white-striped cloth. For the guards and the new trainloads of arrivals, Mr. Helle photocopied old photographs, cut out the clothes and hats and glued them on. “We were looking for an easy and fast way to make them,” he said.

Mr. Helle made the translucent bodies of the naked, gassed prisoners out of hot glue that melted around wire frames. “It makes them look very vulnerable,” he said.

About 10 visual artists helped with the models. The whole project took about eight months to construct. The complete installation, made mostly of plain gray corrugated cardboard, includes barracks, guard towers, crematoriums, gas chambers with buckets of gas pellets, a dining hall for the guards, a train and tracks, and the notorious gateway sign, “Arbeit Macht Frei,” “Work Makes You Free.”



**Performances of Hotel Modern’s “Kamp” reveal imagined scenes from life at Auschwitz projected onto a wall. At the same time, viewers are able to see the 36-by-33-foot model as a whole.**

At performances of “Kamp,” the three artists move the figures around the set. The tiny puppets sweep, shovel rocks and line up to be counted. Prisoners are beaten and executed by hanging; others are gassed; corpses are buried or burned. Using a small camera, Mr. Helle films the figures in a tight frame, projecting the images in close-up on the wall of the theater.

The audience is seated around the model, as if looking down at the camp from a mountainside. “All the time you have an overview,” Ms. Kalker explained, “and with the camera, we give you an insider’s view of what is happening in the camp. We want to make the audience eyewitnesses.”

Hotel Modern experimented with different methods of storytelling. The artists tried working with a script. One idea was to have a Mengele-like doctor performing medical experiments. "It didn't work at all," Mr. Helle said. "It was too much like a history lesson."

Another idea was to have a group of women talk about food and cooking, or have a Nazi official visit. Those proposals were also scrapped.

The nearly hourlong show has no dialogue, but there is sound from small microphones, which amplify the sweeping, and from the miniaturized railway, as well as added recorded effects that include the sounds of wind, swallows, industrial clanging and a screeching squeak from a cart that Mr. Helle taped while visiting Auschwitz itself.

Ms. Kalker, whose grandfather died at the camp, said she invited Holocaust survivors, including her cousin Ralph Prins, a sculptor, to see early versions of "Kamp." "I asked him to see it, if he thought it was appropriate," Ms. Kalker said.

"We wanted their approval," she said of the survivors.

The work has received good reviews, except in Germany, where "Kamp" provoked a mixed response. Ms. Kalker said she thought Germans were still figuring out how to deal with this part of their history. Critics complained that "using puppets was making it seem banal," she said, or they thought "it was in bad taste." Responding to that point, she noted that Auschwitz and other camps have miniature models of their original layouts today in their visitors' centers.

For their performances in Spain last week, Hotel Modern showed a different piece, called "Shrimp Tales." It is a comedy starring 400 prawns, who play human beings eating in restaurants; attending church, a wedding and a funeral; playing the piano; boxing; giving birth; performing surgery; lining up for an episode of "Antiques Roadshow"; and landing on the moon.

"We have a humorous side," Ms. Kalker said. "I would not want to perform only 'Kamp.'"



## MOVIES

### Universal might have just 'The Thing'



by **Patrick Goldstein** - Mar. 19, 2010 07:59 AM

Los Angeles Times

Will there ever be light at the end of the tunnel? That's what everyone has to be asking at Universal Pictures, where the studio has been struggling for a year to dig itself out from the accumulated rubble of a prolonged losing streak.

Although there have been occasional hits, notably last year's "Fast & Furious" and "Couples Retreat," the studio has been buffeted by a long string of flops, from "Duplicity," "State of Play" and "Land of the Lost" in the first half of 2009 through such recent releases as "The Wolfman" and "Green Zone," which staggered to a \$14.3-million opening last weekend, a disaster for the studio, seeing as the political thriller cost \$100 million to make.

If there is any good news, it's that the studio's new executive team - led by Adam Fogelson and Donna Langley - has begun greenlighting a new batch of films that could help turn Universal around. For me, the most intriguing new film, which starts shooting Friday, March 19, is "The Thing," a remake of the 1982 John Carpenter sci-fi cult classic about an Antarctic research team battling a wildly insidious alien creature. Even though Carpenter's film, itself a loose remake of 1951's "The Thing From Another World" from Howard Hawks and Christian Nyby, didn't do much at the box office (overshadowed by a more upbeat alien drama called "E.T."), it has a huge following among sci-fi and horror geeks (yeah, like me) who remain thrilled by its taut storytelling and gloriously creepy special effects.

I'm a skeptic when it comes to the dreary, largely brain-dead remakes that have dominated the Hollywood landscape in recent years. It seems as if every studio has been pillaging its vaults, eager to exploit titles that have a recognizable brand.



Judging from recent efforts - "Friday the 13th," "The Taking of Pelham 123" and Universal's own "Wolfman" - most couldn't hold a candle to the original films. But as long as moviegoers keep plunking down cash, the studios will keep dragging material out of their vaults.

So what makes "The Thing" different? First, the film isn't so much a remake as a prequel, or what the producers are calling a companion piece to the original. As "Thing" fans may recall, early in the film, trying to understand why a Norwegian helicopter had been chasing a runaway husky before it crashed, R.J. (Kurt Russell) returns to the Norwegian base camp, where he finds evidence that its research team - now all dead - had dug something out of the ice, apparently awakening an extraterrestrial creature that had been buried for thousands of years.

"That's the story we tell in this film," says Marc Abraham, who is producing the movie with his Strike Entertainment partner Eric Newman. "We go back to that original Norwegian camp and try to figure out what happened. It's like a crime scene, with an ax in the door, and the audience gets to be the detective, trying to piece together what horrible things have occurred."

Abraham and Newman have street cred when it comes to doing remakes because they were the team that made "Dawn of the Dead," the successful 2004 update of the George Romero horror classic. Made at Universal, where the producers have their deal, the film satisfied fans of the original, made nearly \$100 million worldwide and launched the career of Zack Snyder, who went on to make the mega hit "300."

"So after Dawn of the Dead,' Universal basically came to us and said, Everyone is remaking everything, what do we have that might be good?' " Newman told me recently. "The great thing is that Universal has all sorts of good titles. After all, they're the studio that essentially created the monster movie genre."

The producers were intent on achieving what you might call low-budget veracity. (The film is budgeted at roughly \$38 million, with much of that going for its special effects.) From a studio standpoint, the great thing about genre films is that they don't need star talent, so the new "Thing" has a cast of relative unknowns. In their quest for authenticity - and with an eye toward helping the film play overseas - the cast is populated with actors from Australia, England, Canada and Norway.

The producers' search for a young filmmaker who could make the same kind of splash as Snyder also led them overseas. In fact, it was Snyder who steered them to Matthijs Van Heijningen Jr., a Dutch commercial filmmaker who'd been working with Snyder on a project that Snyder was producing at Warners. I watched Van Heijningen's reel over the weekend, and it made it pretty obvious why he got the job. His commercials, some of them made for \$1 million, play like mini-movies, crammed with exciting action sequences, humor and clever special effects.

"That's exactly why we hired Matthijs," Newman says. "Commercial directors make good film directors not just because they've shot millions of feet of film but because they know how to convey emotion in 30 seconds. Whether it's Ridley Scott or David Fincher or Spike Jonze, these guys are trained to tell stories without words, which is great training for a genre film."

## Learning from a Second Look

Patrick Walsh has taken a freeze frame approach to improving prostatectomy outcomes.

How do you make a good operation even better? Ask **Patrick Walsh** and he'll tell you the key is something professional athletes have used for years—a video camera.

Twenty-eight years ago, Walsh developed the nerve-sparing radical prostatectomy. Ever since, he has worked to reduce its two major side effects, impotence and incontinence.

"I knew that minor differences in technique made a big difference," he says, "because I would operate on two people, doing what I thought was exactly the same operation on the same day, and one would have a perfect result immediately, and the other one's outcome might be delayed for months or years."

But it was impossible for Walsh to make satisfactory connections between what happened during surgery and the outcome; too much time had passed. Then, 14 years ago, he got a high-quality video camera and began taping his operations. He spent long hours scrutinizing the tapes, looking at men who had recovered quickly and at men who were still not potent after a year. Sometimes he stopped the film frame by frame.

Gradually, he identified some slight variations in his technique—in controlling bleeding from the dorsal vein and dividing the sphincter—that appeared to make the difference in the men who recovered sexual potency the soonest. He also learned that some men have a slight anatomical variation in the location of their neurovascular bundles, the very

delicate nerves on either side of the prostate that are responsible for erection. The key to preserving potency, he discovered long ago, is to remove the prostate without injuring these nerves. But in these men, "if you didn't realize it, you could go where you thought everything was safe, and it really wasn't."

Walsh has continually refined his procedure. Inspired by laparoscopic prostatectomy and its close kin, the robotic laparoscopic procedure, he reduced his incision size to three inches several years ago. He also started using a technique called "high anterior release" of the neurovascular bundles, which has further eased traction on these fragile nerves. "At 18 months," he says, "we had around 90 percent potency, and using this technique, we

moved it up to 12 months." This work was published in the *Journal of Urology* in December 2008.

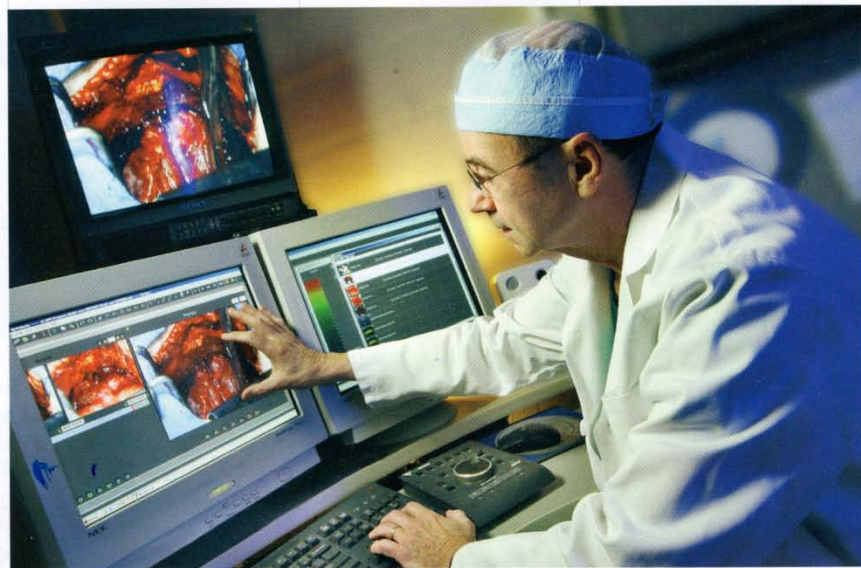
Recently, Walsh made another small change that has reaped big dividends. "From watching robotic prostatectomies," he says, "I saw that the prostate can be lifted anteriorly, and then you can dissect the prostate away from the nerves, rather than dissecting the nerves away from the prostate, which is the standard way we do it in open surgery."

With the use of a Babcock clamp at the bladder neck, he can see further around the posterior side of the prostate, and with better access, he is able to release these nerves even more gently. "I've already had what appear to be some immediate responses that I have not

seen up to this time," he says. "I haven't validated them yet, but I am very enthusiastic about this, because at least as a surgeon, I can see much better." Again, he's watching his videotapes to confirm these findings.

When Walsh first started using the video camera, "some of my patients said, aren't you afraid of being sued? My answer was no, because it wasn't that I did something wrong, it was that somehow or other, I did something better, and I wanted to know what it was. On the videotape, you can see the entire field, the secondary consequences in what your fingertips may be doing, things you never saw before. It really is a revelation."

*Janet Farrar Worthington*



By scrutinizing tapes of his past operations, Patrick Walsh is further refining his nerve-sparing prostatectomy.

PHOTO BY KETH WELER

# HUMOR

The two greatest American contributions to the world of culture and arts

1. New Orleans style Dixieland! And
2. Groucho and the Marx Brothers!



Julis Henry (Groucho) 1890–1977  
Leonard (Chico) 1891–1961  
Adolph (Harpo) 1893–1961  
Herbert (Zeppo) 1901–1979  
Milton (Gummo) 1904–1977

Groucho & Company  
or  
The Marx of Time\*

Groucho, Harpo and Chico  
Were the only Marxist party  
American ever took to heart.

While Caesar divided Gaul into  
Three parts, the three Marxes merely  
Unleashed it.....teaching Caesar to  
Beware the Ides of Marx.

The lecherous leader of  
These men form Marx was  
Groucho-their home grown King Leer.

Groucho was also the only  
Literary Brother-a regular  
Book Marx in comic clothing.

Together their socialism of silliness  
Seldom missed the Marx-a  
Depression team treating various forms of  
Depression ever since.

Truly, these are Marx of Time!

from THE MARX BROTHERS a Bio-  
Bibliography by Wes D. Gehring



## My Next Life by Woody Allen

In my next life I want to live backwards.  
You start out dead and get that out of the way.

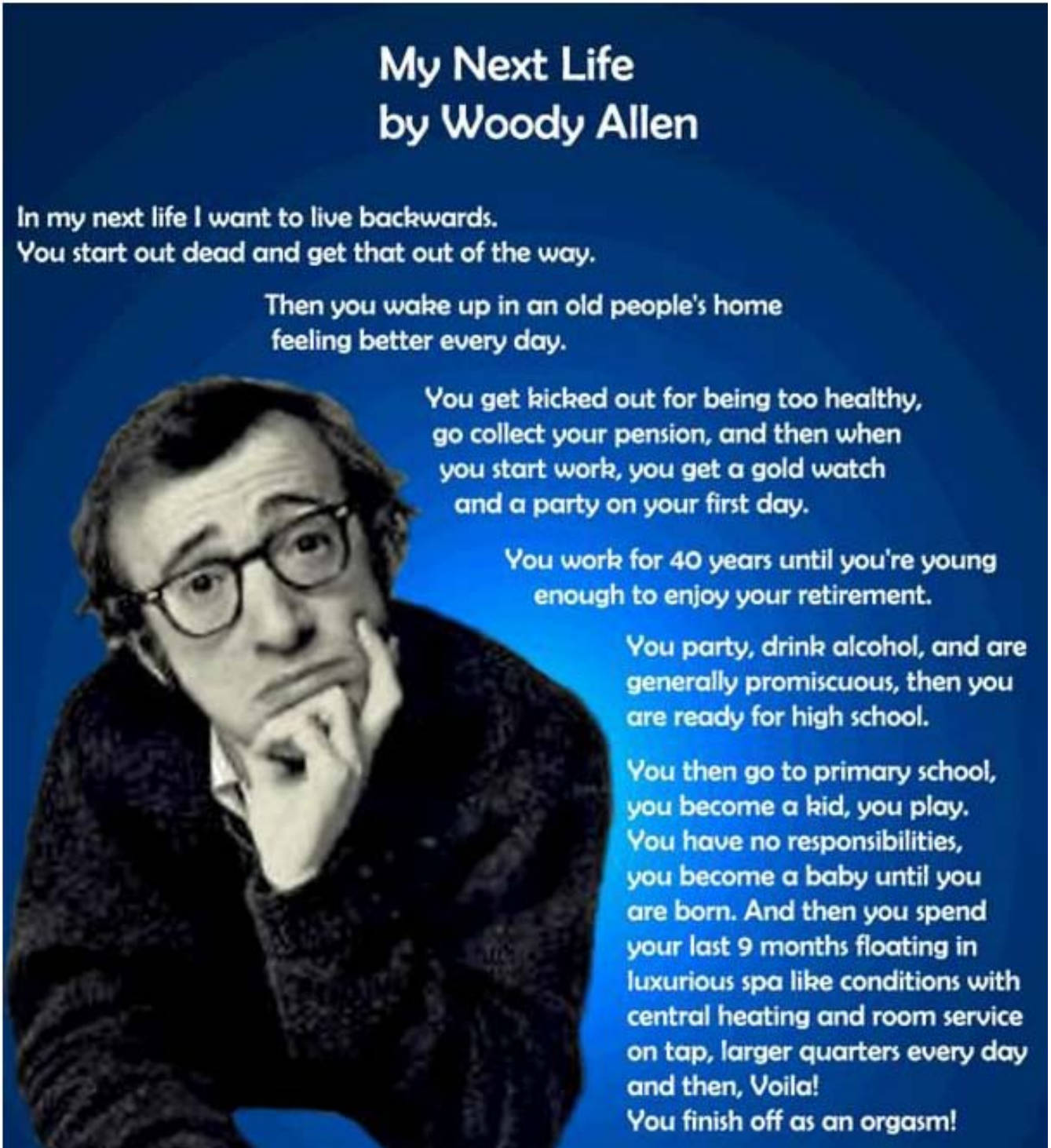
Then you wake up in an old people's home  
feeling better every day.

You get kicked out for being too healthy,  
go collect your pension, and then when  
you start work, you get a gold watch  
and a party on your first day.

You work for 40 years until you're young  
enough to enjoy your retirement.

You party, drink alcohol, and are  
generally promiscuous, then you  
are ready for high school.

You then go to primary school,  
you become a kid, you play.  
You have no responsibilities,  
you become a baby until you  
are born. And then you spend  
your last 9 months floating in  
luxurious spa like conditions with  
central heating and room service  
on tap, larger quarters every day  
and then, Voila!  
You finish off as an orgasm!



**This has to be one of the best singles ads ever printed. It is reported to have been listed in the Atlanta Journal.**

**SINGLE BLACK FEMALE seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cozy winter nights lying by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me... Call (404) 875-6420 (404) 875-6420 and ask for Annie, I'll be waiting.....**



**Over 150 men found themselves talking to the Atlanta Humane Society.**





**LANDSCAPING AT THE VIAGRA COMPANY HEADQUARTERS!!!**



**"A TAMALE HAVING  
A DIARRHEA  
ATTACK AT 'THE  
MIERDA CALIENTE  
CAFÉ' IN NOGALES  
MEXICO"**



THINK FINK

## Craig Ferguson on winning Peabody Award, 'I am genuinely shocked'

Comedian and talk show host, Craig Ferguson, has responded to the announcement that he has won a [Peabody Award](#). Posting to his Twitter account on Wednesday, he told his followers, "I am genuinely shocked." Mr. Ferguson won the Peabody for his interview of Archbishop Desmond Tutu on his show, *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson*, which broadcasts weeknights on CBS after [The Late Show with David Letterman](#).

Mr. Ferguson's full message about the award was:

"Holy crackers. A Peabody. Congrats to Lisa Ammerman the segment producer who made the Father Tutu visit happen. I am genuinely shocked."

On Thursday, he tweeted again, this time about a gift he received from Jimmy Fallon of *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*:

"I received a chocolate cake from @jimmyfallon because I won the Peabody. He is a god among men. Late night wars my a\_\_."

And later:

"I tried the @jimmyfallon chocolate cake on the interns. They seem fine."

Mr. Ferguson's boss, Dave Letterman, mentioned the award on his show as well and offered his congratulations. Both Ferguson's and Letterman's shows are produced by Mr. Letterman's company, Worldwide Pants.





# ARAB LEAGUE ROUNDTABLE

THERE SEEMS TO BE A DIVIDED OPINION  
WORLDWIDE AS TO HITLER BEING CRUEL  
AND VINDICTIVE... I THINK THE LEAST  
WE CAN SAY ABOUT HIM IS THAT HE WAS  
A MEANY...



THINK FINK

## OPINION

### RACISM: IF THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE

By Leonard Pitts Jr.-StarTribune-March 25, 2010

In March, U.S. Rep. John Lewis (center, behind banner) visited the Edmund Pettus Bridge in



Selma, Ala., to mark the 45th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday." Last Sunday, racial slurs were shouted at Lewis near the U.S. Capitol.

Is it wise to cut the Tea Party movement any slack on this matter?

So it turns out that, contrary to what I've argued, racism is not "a major component" of the so-called Tea Party movement. I am informed of this by dozens of Tea Party activists indignant and insulted that I would even suggest such a thing.

In other news, Tea Party protesters called John Lewis a "nigger" the other day in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol.

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver was spat upon.

Rep. Barney Frank, who is gay, was called "faggot."

But it is Lewis' involvement that gives the Saturday incident its bittersweet resonance. The 70-year-old representative from Georgia is, after all, among the last living icons of the civil-rights movement. Or, as Lewis himself put it, "I've faced this before."

Indeed. He faced it in Nashville in 1960 when he was locked inside a whites-only fast-food restaurant and gassed by a fumigation machine for ordering a hamburger.

He faced it in Birmingham in 1961 when a group of Freedom Riders was attacked and he was knocked unconscious for riding a Greyhound bus. Most famously, he faced it on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma 45 years ago this month when his skull was fractured by Alabama state troopers who charged a group of demonstrators seeking their right to vote.

In the very arc of his life, Lewis provides a yardstick for measuring American progress. The fact that he rose from that bridge to become a member of Congress says something about this country. But the fact that people demonstrating against health-care reform chose to chant at him, "Kill the bill, nigger!" well, that says something, too.

Which is why Tea Party leaders have spent much of the last few days spinning the incident, deflecting renewed suggestions that their stated fears -- socialism, communism, liberalism -- are just proxies for the one fear most of them no longer dare speak. Some even faxed the McClatchy Newspapers news bureau in Washington to suggest, without offering a shred of evidence, that the episode was sparked by Democratic plants within the crowd.

Amy Kremer, coordinator of the Tea Party Express, went on Fox News to dismiss what she called an "isolated" incident. Your first instinct may be to cede the benefit of the doubt on that one. It seems unfair to tar nine reasonable people with the hateful behavior of one lunatic.

But ask yourself: When is the last time organizers of protests on other hot-button issues -- say, abortion rights or globalization -- had to apologize for "isolated incidents" like these?

Moreover, given how often Tea Party leaders have been forced to disavow hateful signs and slogans and even the presence of organized white supremacist groups in their midst, is it really fair to use the word "isolated"?

Is there not a rottenness here? And is not the unwillingness to call that rottenness by name part and parcel of the reason it endures?

No, my argument is emphatically not that every American who opposes health-care reform is a closet Klansman. Certainly, people can have earnest and honest disagreements.

But it insults intelligence to deny that race is in the mix. Not that the denial surprises. Often we tell ourselves lies to spare ourselves truths. Had you asked them, the people who locked John Lewis inside that restaurant, the ones who mauled him at that bus station and smashed him down on that bridge, would not have said they acted from a rottenness within.

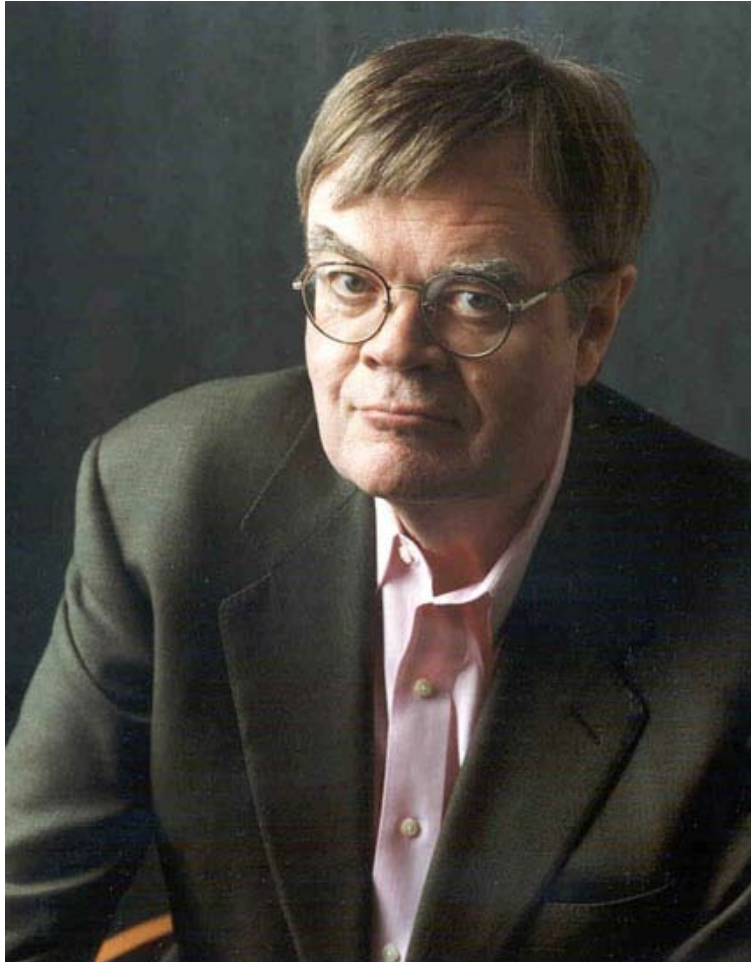
No, like the ones who called him "nigger" half a century later, they would have told you they were good people fighting for principle, trying to save this country from the liberals, the socialists and the communists.

They would not have said they were racists. Racists never do



A HEALTH CARE SUCCESS BY ANY OTHER NAME...A health care success by any other name ... is still a success. You're weary of the topic? Read on. No, please.

By Garrison Keillor-March 28, 2010 - StarTribune



The mind glazes over at the sight of the words so let's just refer to it as hrothgar reform and congratulate the president and Mrs. Pelosi for pushing it through Congress, a rational reform that the stonewall opposition depicted as a flock of hooded vampires rising from the steaming swamps of Stalinism. That strategy fell a few votes short.

Good hrothgar in America is a privilege and now Congress has, by a narrow margin, offered it up as a basic human right even if a person is unemployed and in poor hroth. This is a landmark bill, achieved through the messy and maddening processes of representative democracy, like harnessing tabby cats to push a plastic garden hose uphill, during which you read dozens of interesting articles about the fatal flaws of the Democratic party and the twilight of the Obama administration, but what a difference a day can make. Goodbye, Sen. Scott Brown. Hello, Hrothgar.

The Republicans fought long and hard for people's right to wait three hours in an emergency room for someone to take their blood pressure, and they went down to defeat, and now they should stop and rethink their Waterloo strategy. The picture of the grinning GOP congressmen holding "Kill The Bill" posters was not an attractive one. Those guys all get excellent hrothgar from the government, at bargain prices. If you choke on your shoe during a speech in the House of Representatives, you'll be whisked away to Walter Reed, and specialists will extract your hoof from your mouth and your head from your colon and clean you up and all for a tiny annual premium. It does not behoove men who are enjoying a huge pork sandwich to deny a few pork rinds to others and to grin in the process.

Insurance is not an inherently interesting subject, not even hroth insurance. It is the province of short-haired men in pressed khakis and vest sweaters, poring over actuarial tables. The Republicans tried to add some spice. They brought in pictures of deadly vipers, ticking time bombs, death panels, flesh-eating plants, crazed zombies and the hounds of hell. They did not prevail.

Now Sen. McCain says there will be no further cooperation with the administration. OK then. Thanks for clearing that up. Now that bipartisanship has been buried for good, Democrats can get about the business of running the government, which is their duty as the majority party, and let the Republicans sulk in their rooms and work on their Facebook updates. They've made it clear that if Mr. Obama suddenly decided to come out in favor of Mother's Day, they would fight against it as a ruthless exercise of federal power and a violation of due process. Fine. Talk to the hand.

As for the hroth of the Republicans, no doubt they will survive this setback. They will fume and prevaricate for a few weeks and then, if their pollsters read the owl droppings and find omens of the American People Moving On, the party will find a new issue. Here's one that is tailor-made for them. The federal government is spending \$615,000 to help organize the Grateful Dead archive at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Here's a chance to lash out at the

Sixties and San Francisco and the irresponsibility of hippies playing 23-minute versions of four-minute songs for stadiums full of stoned people in T-shirts of many colors, shaking their ponytails. Apparently, the Dead hung onto every scrap of paper and now \$615,000 of taxpayer money is going toward the digitization of the drug-crazed chicken-scratchings of songwriters and their admirers. This may be your last best chance to lash out at the counterculture. All those people who used to get stoned are heading toward Alzheimer Land and soon will be old and pitiful and not worth your ammunition. You could easily tie Jerry Garcia to Nancy Pelosi and link both of them to ACORN, the defeat of Chiang Kai-shek, the failure of Lehman Brothers, the use of growth hormones by professional athletes, and the Mayan prediction of apocalypse in 2012.

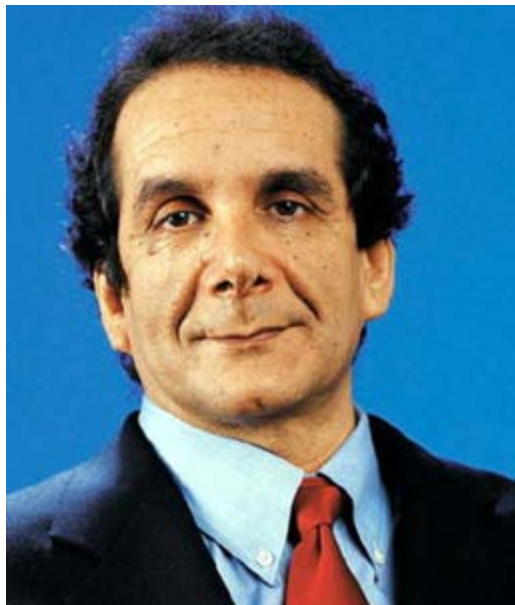


October 27, 2009 by Aumatma

Meanwhile, life goes on. Some people believe that God has revealed Himself to them and their tribe and not to the barbarians. He despises all the same people they despise. Others feel that God has given gifts to be shared with others, and we should walk softly and not be cruel in His name. The prospect of perfect harmony is not good at the present time. Happy Easter. Good hroth. Be garful.

## IN DEFENSE OF ISRAEL, BECAUSE SOMEONE MUST

By Charles Krauthammer- June 6, 2010 -StarTribune



The blockade is all that's left once the world delegitimizes other strategies.

The world is outraged at Israel's blockade of Gaza. Turkey denounces its illegality, inhumanity, barbarity, etc. The usual U.N. suspects, Third World and European, join in. The Obama administration dithers.

But as Leslie Gelb, former president of the Council on Foreign Relations, writes, the blockade is not just perfectly rational, it is perfectly legal. Gaza under Hamas is a self-declared enemy of Israel -- a declaration backed up by more than 4,000 rockets fired at Israeli civilian territory. Yet Hamas claims victimhood when Israel imposes a blockade to prevent Hamas from arming itself with still more rockets.

In World War II, with full international legality, the United States blockaded Germany and Japan. And during the October 1962 missile crisis, we blockaded ("quarantined") Cuba. Yet Israel is accused of international criminality for doing precisely what John Kennedy did: impose a naval blockade to prevent a hostile state from acquiring lethal weaponry.

Oh, but weren't the Gaza-bound ships on a mission of humanitarian relief? No. Otherwise they would have accepted Israel's offer to bring their supplies to an Israeli port, be inspected for military materiel and have the rest trucked by Israel into Gaza -- as every week 10,000 tons of food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies are sent by Israel to Gaza.

Why was the offer refused? Because, as organizer Greta Berlin admitted, the flotilla was not about humanitarian relief but about breaking the blockade, which would mean unlimited shipping into Gaza and thus the unlimited arming of Hamas.

Israel has already twice intercepted weapons-laden ships from Iran destined for Hezbollah and Gaza. What country would allow that?

But even more important, why did Israel even have to resort to blockade? Because: It is the fallback as the world systematically delegitimizes Israel's traditional ways of defending itself:

**1)Forward defense:** As a small, densely populated country surrounded by hostile states, Israel had, for its first half-century, adopted forward defense -- fighting wars on enemy territory (such as the Sinai and Golan Heights) rather than its own. Where possible (Sinai, for example) Israel has traded territory for peace. But where peace offers were refused, it retained the territory as a protective buffer zone. Thus it retained a small strip of southern Lebanon to protect the villages of northern Israel. And it took many losses in Gaza,



rather than expose Israeli border towns to Palestinian terror attacks. But under overwhelming outside pressure, Israel gave it up. The Israelis were told the occupations were not just illegal but at the root of the anti-Israel insurgencies -- and therefore withdrawal, by removing the cause, would bring peace. What did it get? An intensification of belligerency, heavy militarization of the enemy side, multiple kidnappings, cross-border attacks and, from Gaza, years of unrelenting rocket attack.

**2)Active defense:** Israel then had to switch to active defense -- military action to disrupt, dismantle and defeat (to borrow President Obama's description of our campaign against the Taliban and Al-Qaida) the newly armed terrorist mini-states established in southern Lebanon and Gaza after Israel withdrew. The result? The Lebanon war of 2006 and Gaza operation of 2008-09. They were met with yet another avalanche of opprobrium and calumny by the same international community that had demanded the land-for-peace Israeli withdrawals in the first place.

**3)Passive defense:** Without forward or active defense, Israel is left with but the most passive and benign of all defenses -- a blockade to simply prevent enemy rearmament. Yet, as we speak, this too is headed for international delegitimation.

But, if none of these are permissible, what's left? Nothing. The whole point of this relentless international campaign is to deprive Israel of *any* legitimate form of self-defense.

The world is tired of these troublesome Jews, 6 million -- that number again -- hard by the Mediterranean, refusing every invitation to national suicide. For which they are relentlessly demonized, ghettoized and constrained from defending themselves, even as the more committed anti-Zionists -- Iranian in particular -- openly prepare a more final solution.



## WHO WANTS TO ELECT A MILLIONAIRE? By Gail Collins-New York Times- May 26, 2010



Today, let's play Political Kingmaker.

Pretend you're the Republican leadership in a smallish state with an open United States Senate seat. The opposition is running a popular, longtime officeholder whose sense of inevitability was shaken by recent revelations that he had referred to himself as a Vietnam War veteran when he isn't one.

Your own options are:

A) A well regarded former congressman who is a decorated Vietnam War veteran.

B) A political novice who made her fortune building up an entertainment business that specialized in blood, seminaked women and scripted subplots featuring rape, adultery and familial violence. In which the candidate, her husband and children played

themselves. Also, the family yacht is named Sexy Bitch.

Well, obviously, you go for the yacht owner.

Yes, this week the Connecticut Republican Party chose Linda McMahon, the former C.E.O. of World Wrestling Entertainment, to be their Senate candidate. Her main opponent, the former Representative Rob Simmons, packed up his war medals and went home.

"You can't argue with arithmetic," he told *The New London Day*.

The math in question is \$50 million, the amount McMahon claimed she was prepared to spend on her campaign. Connecticut has just under two million registered voters, so maybe she'll just invite everybody in the state to a nice dinner at Red Lobster.

So far this season, the Republicans have offered two new models of their future. One is the Tea Party vision, in which outsiders full of spirit and excitement overthrow the old order. In North Carolina, there was so much spirit and excitement that voters gave the top spot in a Congressional primary to a former drug addict who, according to court documents, once referred to the United States government as the Antichrist and claimed to have personally located the Ark of the Covenant.

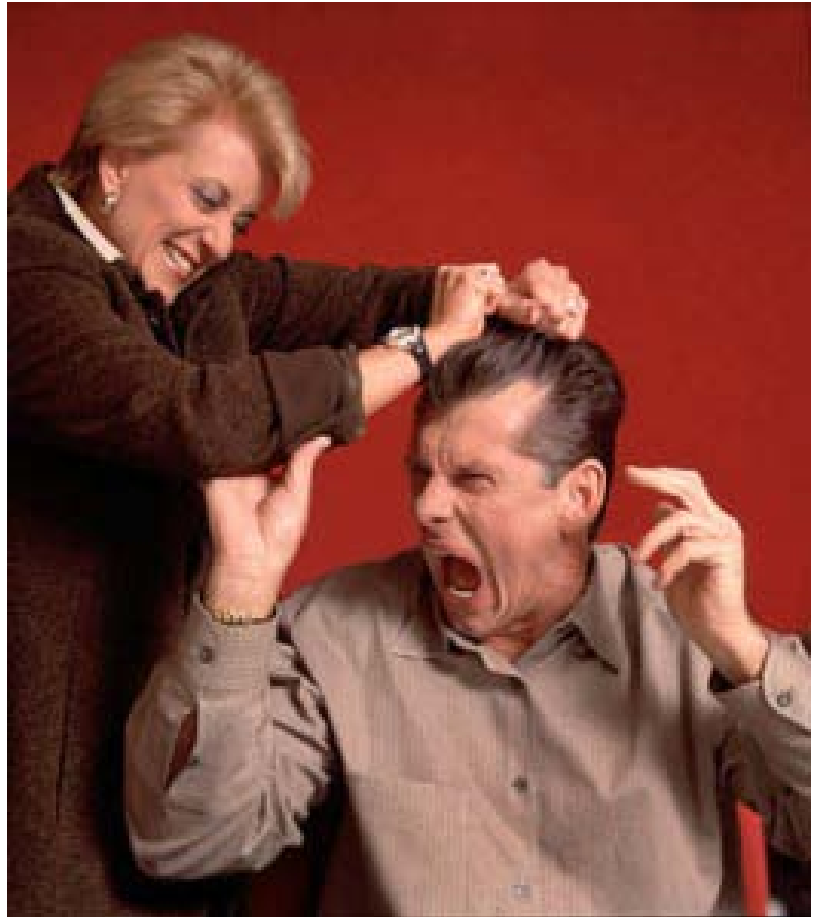
Meanwhile in Kentucky, primary voters nominated Rand Paul, an ophthalmologist, for the Senate, ignoring the pleas of party leaders to go for somebody less spirited and exciting. Paul promptly got into trouble over his lack of enthusiasm for requiring restaurants to serve black people and his criticism of Barack Obama for being disrespectful of oil-drilling companies.

The other model is the one on view in Connecticut: richest bidder wins. For governor, the Republican convention endorsed Tom Foley, a longtime party fund-raiser who was once George W. Bush's ambassador to Ireland. Foley, whose 100-foot yacht makes the McMahons' 47-footer look like a dinghy, instantly identified himself as an "outsider."

Both Foley and McMahon are what political pros like to call "self-financers." And while McMahon doesn't dwell on her willingness to pay all the campaign freight, her sales pitch is all about financial success. "People call Linda McMahon a C.E.O., job creator, business leader. But I just call her Mom," says daughter Stephanie in a much, much repeated TV ad. W.W.E. fans all remember Stephanie from the day she slugged Mom in a spat over the Wrestlemania fight card, but we are not going there anymore. In fact, the McMahon organization has been busily scrubbing the Internet of every embarrassing clip it can claim a copyright on.

The McMahons made a mint off the formerly seedy, small-town entertainment known as professional wrestling by adding heavy doses of sex, more spectacular violence and a raw tone that bordered on pornography. Linda McMahon now likes to brag that she's "created a product that is one of America's greatest exports," as if there's no question that bringing half-naked women wrestling in pudding to 145 countries was one of America's greater accomplishments.

You can overlook a lot of sleaze for \$50 million. Simmons distributed a video of Vince McMahon, Linda's husband, standing in the ring and telling a weeping female wrestler to take off her clothes, get down on her knees and "dammit, bark like a dog." Nobody paid attention.



On the plus side, ever since Linda McMahon developed political ambitions, the W.W.E. has attempted to clean up the more outrageous elements in its act, sparing millions of impressionable children from the old hints of necrophilia, the abundance of gore and the side stories in which Stephanie lost her blouse in the ring, Vince ran off with a floozy and Linda was sexually assaulted by a competing promoter.

"One good thing has come from her run: Vince McMahon putting out an edict that there will no longer be any cutting of your foreheads with razor blades," said Superstar Billy Graham, a retired wrestler who contracted hepatitis from a bloody competitor. "He has actually stopped wrestlers from cutting their heads with razor blades. This is a big deal!"

We take progress anywhere we can get it.



## SISTER MARGARET'S CHOICE

By Nicholas D. Kristof-New York Times-May 26, 2010



*We finally have a case where the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy is responding forcefully and speedily to allegations of wrongdoing.*

But the target isn't a pedophile priest. Rather, it's a nun who helped save a woman's life. Doctors describe her as saintly.

The excommunication of Sister Margaret McBride in Phoenix underscores all that to me feels morally obtuse about the church hierarchy. I hope that a public outcry can rectify this travesty. Sister Margaret was a senior administrator of St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix. A 27-year-old mother of four arrived late last year, in her third month of pregnancy. According to local news reports and accounts from

the hospital and some of its staff members, the mother suffered from a serious complication called pulmonary hypertension. That created a high probability that the strain of continuing pregnancy would kill her.

"In this tragic case, the treatment necessary to save the mother's life required the termination of an 11-week pregnancy," the hospital said in a statement. "This decision was made after consultation with the patient, her family, her physicians, and in consultation with the Ethics Committee."

Sister Margaret was a member of that committee. She declined to discuss the episode with me, but the bishop of Phoenix, Thomas Olmsted, ruled that Sister Margaret was "automatically excommunicated" because she assented to an abortion.

"The mother's life cannot be preferred over the child's," the bishop's communication office elaborated in a statement.

Let us just note that the Roman Catholic hierarchy suspended priests who abused children and in some cases defrocked them but did not normally excommunicate them, so they remained able to take the sacrament.

Since the excommunication, Sister Margaret has left her post as vice president and is no longer listed as one of the hospital executives on its Web site. The hospital told me that she had resigned "at the bishop's request" but is still working elsewhere at the hospital.

I heard about Sister Margaret from an acquaintance who is a doctor at the hospital. After what happened to Sister Margaret, he doesn't dare be named, but he sent an e-mail to his friends lamenting the excommunication of "a saintly nun":

"She is a kind, soft-spoken, humble, caring, spiritual woman whose spot in Heaven was reserved years ago," he said in the e-mail message. "The idea that she could be ex-communicated after decades of service to the Church and humanity literally makes me nauseated."

“True Christians, like Sister Margaret, understand that real life is full of difficult moral decisions and pray that they make the right decision in the context of Christ’s teachings. Only a group of detached, pampered men in gilded robes on a balcony high above the rest of us could deny these dilemmas.”



A statement from the bishop’s office did not dispute that the mother’s life was in danger — although it did note that no doctor’s prediction is 100 percent certain. The implication is that the church would have preferred for the hospital to let nature take its course.

The Roman Catholic hierarchy is entitled to its views. But the episode reinforces perceptions of church leaders as rigid, dogmatic, out of touch — and very suspicious of independent-minded American nuns. Sister Margaret made a difficult judgment in an emergency, saved a life and then was punished and humiliated by a lightning bolt from a bishop who spent 16 years living in Rome and who has devoted far less time to serving the downtrodden than Sister Margaret. Compare their two biographies, and Sister Margaret’s looks much more like Jesus’s than the bishop’s does.

“Everyone I know considers Sister Margaret to be the moral conscience of the hospital,” Dr. John Garvie, chief of gastroenterology at St. Joseph’s Hospital, wrote in a letter to the editor to *The Arizona Republic*. “She works tirelessly and selflessly as the living example and champion of compassionate, appropriate care for the sick and dying.”

Dr. Garvie later told me in an e-mail message that “saintly” was the right word for Sister Margaret and added: “Sister was the ‘living embodiment of God’ in our building. She always made sure we understood that we’re here to help the less fortunate. We really have no one to take her place.”

I’ve written several times about the gulf between Roman Catholic leaders at the top and the nuns, priests and laity who often live the Sermon on the Mount at the grass roots. They represent the great soul of the church, which isn’t about vestments but selflessness.

When a hierarchy of mostly aging men pounce on and excommunicate a revered nun who was merely trying to save a mother’s life, the church seems to me almost as out of touch as it was in the cruel and debauched days of the Borgias in the Renaissance.